Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-94-174 *8 September 1994*

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Islamic Affairs

Extraordinary Session of ICO Opens

Spokesman Reviews Agenda

BK0709010394 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] The extraordinary session of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers begins in Islamabad tomorrow to formulate coordinated positions on various international issues confronting the Muslim ummah [community]. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will inaugurate the conference and deliver the key-note address.

Islamabad wears a ceremonial look as multicolor flags and banners with slogans of Islamic brotherhood, unity and fraternity flutter all around to welcome the ICO delegates.

The inaugural session will be followed by general debate in which ministers and heads of delegations will deliver statements on key issues before the conference. Out of 51 member countries from Asia, Africa, Europe and Middle East, 47 are attending the conference. The prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mr. Haris Silajdzic, will attend the conference as a special guest. The conference is being held at the time when Bosnia and occupied Kashmir are bleeding. PTV representative says it is the first time that leaders from occupied Kashmir and Azad Kashmir have been extended invitations to represent Kashmir on the ICO conference. During its deliberations, the conference will discuss the establishment of an ICO contact group on Kashmir.

Talking about the agenda of the conference, a government spokesman said: [Begin unidentified spokesman recording] This conference has been called to consider the most urgent issues facing the Islamic world. These are the conflict in Kashmir, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the civil war in Afghanistan, and of course the situation in Palestine. The extraordinary session will adopt important decisions on each one of these issues. These will reflect the consensus of the Islamic foreign ministers who did not have the opportunity to meet in the last 15 months. [end recording]

Senior officials of the Islamic countries approved today the agenda and program of the seventh extraordinary session of the ICO foreign ministers. Senior officials of the 51-members of the Islamic Conference Organization met in Islamabad today under the chairmanship of Pakistan Foreign secretary Mr. Najmuddin Sheikh. The meeting approved the four point agenda proposed by Pakistan. The senior officials elected Pakistan as the chairman of the seventh extraordinary session with Uganda, Tunisia and Palestine as vice chairmen.

Official sources have expressed the hope that this extraordinary meeting of the ICO foreign ministers will further significantly the cause of the Kashmiri people.

India has refused permission to the All Parties Hurriyat [Kashmir Freedom] Conference delegation to attend the ICO foreign ministers conference. In an emergency meeting held after the Indian refusal in Srinagar, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference condemned India for its blatant refusal. The meeting chaired by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Mirwaiz Omar Farooq, said by not allowing the delegation to proceed to Pakistan to attend the ICO conference, India has closed all doors to a peaceful solution of the Kashmir problem. The meeting thanked the ICO secretary general for inviting the All Parties Hurriyat Conference delegation to the ICO foreign ministers conference. It hoped that the conference would deliberate the Kashmir issue and extended support to the struggling people of Kashmir so that they succeed in liberating their homeland from Indian occupation.

Bhutto's Inaugural Address

BK0709110094 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 0533 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Inaugural address by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to the Seventh Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad—live]

[Text] The secretary general, the [Bosnian] prime minister, distinguished foreign ministers, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen! On behalf of the 130 million people of Pakistan and its government, I welcome you to Pakistan, to this home of Islam. Pakistan was created in the name of Islam. The reason for our existence is Islam. Our identity as a Muslim state is, thus, irrevocable and immutable. Our genesis and identity have dictated not only our domestic policies, but also determined our external positions and affiliations. The Islamic nations which you represent, dear brothers and sisters, are Pakistan's closest friends and partners, no matter how far they may be from this land. Your victories and triumphs are celebrated by our people. Your tragedies and pains rip through our hearts and our souls. The Pakistani nation cherishes a deep desire for unity and solidarity of the Islamic world. We dream of a politically enlightened, economically vibrant, and socially advanced Muslim ummah [community], at harmony with itself, playing a vital role in the maintenance of international peace and progress as the world moves into a new millennium. Unfortunately, this dream is still distant.

Although we represent one-fifth of all mankind and possess half the world's oil resources, export 40 percent of its raw material, most of the our people live in poverty. Our combined income is less than five percent of global output and our exports are less than 7 percent. Half of the Islamic countries are categorized as least developed. We are not self-sufficient in the production of consumer or industrial goods, nor in the fields of defense or science and technology. As a consequence, the Islamic world is weak and divided. Many of us are

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locked in disputes with each other. Today, it is Muslims who are the main victims of aggression all over the world. Sadly, our enlightened and tolerant faith is being portrayed in the West as the harbinger of hate and violence. Our vulnerabilities are reflected in the most urgent and violent crises that we confront—Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Jammu and Kashmir.

This extraordinary session of the Islamic conference of foreign ministers was proposed by Pakistan to address these threats to the Muslim ummah. The government and the people of Pakistan are gratified that despite the short notice our brothers have responded positively to our proposal to convene this extraordinary session. In the 17 months since we last met at Karachi, there have been many developments of significance in the Muslim ummah. These developments need reviewing by our countries and appropriate decisions taken for coordinated action on major issues, specifically at the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly session later this month in New York.

Excellencies, brothers and sisters! Let us remember that it was the arson at the holy al-Aqsa mosque which inspired the creation of this Islamic organization. The al-Aqsa and Al-Qods al-Sharif, the city which was for many centuries in the loving custody of Muslims, must remain a central focus of the Islamic world. We look forward to the day when the holy places will be restored to Muslim sovereignty and all Israeli troops will be gone from the occupied territories.

Pakistan's founding fathers called for a Palestinian homeland in the same breadth that they called for the Muslims of the South Asian subcontinent to have a homeland of their own. Since its independence, Pakistan has defended, often at great costs, the Palestinian cause as its own. We shall continue to do so. Pakistan supports the Middle East peace process. We hope the measures to achieve the principles for a comprehensive peace settlement spelled out in the Security Council's Resolutions 242 and 332 will be met. Pakistan believes that all Security Council resolutions should be implemented across the world. In response to President 'Arafat's gracious invitation, I had wished to visit Gaza to express solidarity with the Palestinian people to support the progress they have made in this last historic year. I could not do so because of Israeli inflexibility. I have no regrets for my decision to stand by our friend and brother Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian people in Gaza. Inshallah [God willing], one day soon, we shall all be able to offer prayers of thanks giving at holy al-Aqsa under Muslim sovereignty.

Excellencies, brothers and sisters! The Islamic world achieved an epic victory in Afghanistan because of the courage, the determination and the sacrifice of the valiant Afghan people. No nation played a more central role to that liberation and paid a greater price for its support than the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. On this day, we remember and we pay homage to the one and a half million Afghans who were martyred in the struggle for freedom. The liberation struggle has reinforced the bonds of blood, kinship and cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Pakistan has a deep and abiding interest in the well-being and the prosperity of the people of Afghanistan and in the restoration of peace and stability there. We are deeply concerned at the renewed hostilities between the Afghan mojahedin factions. Strict adherence to the letter and spirit of the accord signed by the Afghan leaders with the support of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Iran could have avoided this. The death and destruction being visited on Kabul and other parts tarnishes the glorious Afghan jehad [holy war]. It prevents the return of millions of Afghans who remain in Pakistan and Iran to their homeland. Its precludes the provision of humanitarian and economic assistance to the Afghan people. It forecloses the prospects of economic reconstruction. It prevents Afghanistan from taking advantage of its strategic location to serve as a transit link between Central Asia and the rest of the world.

This conference here today seeks to promote reconciliation in Afghanistan. We must together call upon all Afghan groups and leaders to accept a cessation of hostilities, to agree on a political compromise for a fully representative government which can revive the peace process and lead to reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Excellencies, brothers and sisters! In the modern era, we have rarely witnessed ferocity and brutality of the kind used by the Serbian aggressors against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. This war is a flagrant instance of unbridled aggression and genocide. The Bosnians have been killed, tortured, and raped for no other reason than they are Muslims. What is more, these crimes have been committed on a continent that prides itself on its humane civilization and defense of human rights. The acts of aggression and genocide, of plunder and rape and devastation have unfolded for over three years, pictured daily for all the world to see on CNN, BBC, and ITN. This is not like World War II, where people and nations could have pleaded ignorance of what is going on. The world has stood by silent and indifferent as over 100,000 Muslims have been slaughtered. The world stood by silent and indifferent to the systematic destruction of one of the great cities of Europe, the jewel that was Sarajevo.

Brothers and sisters! Let us ask again today what I asked two years ago in an international conference. If it was Protestant London which was being destroyed each day, would the world have stood by silent and seemingly powerless?. If it was Catholic Rome which was being dismembered and brutalized each day witnessed on international television, would the world have stood by silently and indifferent? If it was orthodox Saint Petersburg that was being destroyed before our eyes, would the world not have intervened to put an end to plunder and death?.

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Brothers and sisters! The blood of our sons and daughters is as precious as the blood of others. Brothers and sisters! The honor of our women is as important as the honor of others. The survival of our great cities is as vital, the sanctity of our faith is as noble. The Bosnian people, alone and defenseless, have put up a valiant struggle. I witnessed their courage and determination during my visits to Sarajevo earlier this year.

Our Bosnian brothers have conveyed acceptance to the peace plan advanced by the five-power Contact Group. It is unfortunate that this plan has been rejected by the Serbs. Unfortunate but not unexpected, for those who have committed genocide with impunity for three years hardly believe in the need to compromise. This is the danger to the whole world for acquiesce to aggression. At this conference we must build a plan to help our Bosnian brothers and sisters achieve their legitimate objective. We must jointly press the Security Council and the five-member Contact Group to take more decisive action. They must prevent the continuing violation of the UN-declared safe areas and prohibit further ethnic cleansing by the Serbs. The economic strangulation of Sarajevo must stop. Humanitarian supplies must be resumed and refugees allowed to return to their homes in safety. Serbian attacks on the UN Protection Force in Bosnia must not be allowed to continue with impunity. These attacks must be stopped by force if necessary. The UN contingent now includes 3,000 Pakistanis who have finally been deployed. We in Pakistan have put our sons on the line. Arms and supplies to Bosnian Serbs from Belgrade and elsewhere must be monitored and stopped. The illegal one-sided embargo against the Bosnia government should be lifted immediately. Victims must be allowed to defend themselves. Finally, the Serbian war criminals must be tried by the international tribunal. The Government of Pakistan has contributed 1 million dollars, fully one-quarter of the funds raised in the entire world today, to meet the expenses of the tribunal so that our sisters and brothers can obtain justice.

Excellencies, brothers and sisters! A short distance from here where we are all gathered today, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are waging a heroic struggle for freedom. Kashmir is not a dispute over territory. It is a conflict about the destiny of the people—people like Palestinians, Bosnia, Kuwaitis, Afghans—people whose land has been occupied by a foreign power, whose right to self-determination has been suppressed, whose aspirations for freedom are sought to be crushed under the force of military use and weapons.

Brothers and sisters! If the world can cry out for the right of self-determination for Palestinians, then why not for the people of Jammu and Kashmir? If the world can demand free and fair elections in Estonia and Ukraine, why not then a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir? If the international community can organize into an awesome coalition to overturn aggression in Kuwait, why not in occupied Kashmir? If a miracle of democracy can break down apartheid and liberate South Africa, why not in occupied Kashmir? Is the call for liberty, is the call for self-determination, universal in every place on earth except Jammu and Kashmir?

Brothers and sisters! The Kashmiris were promised under several resolutions of the Security Council that they could choose, that they could choose in a UN-supervised plebiscite whether they wish to accede to Pakistan or to India. This promise, this solemn international agreement, to which India and Pakistan and the United Nations are all parties, has not yet been implemented. Initially, India obfuscated. Subsequently it refuted its solemn commitment to the UN resolution. But despite the lapse of time, these resolutions remain legally valid and politically relevant. UN Security Council Resolution 242, first passed in 1967 by the United Nations, laying out the principle of land for peace, is at long last providing the framework for peace in the Middle East. If UN resolutions on the Middle East, on Kuwait, on South Africa are valid and provide the legal framework for peace, why not equally legal and binding UN resolution on Jammu and Kashmir?

A new generation has come of age in Kashmir—young Kashmiris who want their freedom from Indian rule as much as their fathers and mothers did. It is these sons and daughters of 1947 who launched a freedom movement five years ago—a spontaneous intifadah against occupation and suppression. The peaceful demand for self-determination by the Jammu and Kashmir was met with unprecedented brute force. Over 100 peaceful demonstrators were killed on one single day by India in Srinagar on 20 January 1990. Since then Kashmir has been nothing but blood and tears. It has witnessed a ruthless campaign of suppression by an Indian Army of occupation now numbering 600,000, making Kashmir the mostly densely militarily occupied land on earth. Young Kashmiri men are being systematically eliminated by the Indian Army. Kashmiri women are raped by Indian soldiers as part of the policy to break the spirit of the Kashmiri people. Whole villages and neighborhood are put to the torch. This reality of terror has been documented in fine details by many independent organizations.

I draw your attention to the most recent report by Amnesty International: While India inflicts state terrorism against the Kashmiris, it has the temerity to portray the Kashmiri struggle as terrorism. Terrorism is the use of indiscriminate force against innocent people. This must be condemned and we in Pakistan condemn all forms of terrorism. But resistance against a foreign invader is not terrorism. When an occupation Army engages in murder, torture, rape and arson against innocent people, are the victims not entitled to defend themselves by all means possible? States have the right to self-defense under the UN Charter, and so do the people who are subjected to foreign aggression.

Brothers and sisters! For those who believe that India is the world's greatest democracy, let them come to Srinagar. Brothers and sisters! For those who believe that

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India is a champion of human rights, let them come to Srinagar. To those who believe that the Kashmiri people will be beaten into submission, let them come to Srinagar. This is the battle that will not end, that cannot end. It is not a battle that Pakistan has imposed. It is the natural and universal expression of a people yearning to be free. India's claim that Kashmir is its integral part is clearly not true.

I ask that India allow the representatives of the All Parties Hurriyat [Kashmir Freedom] Conference to come to this meeting. I urge you, representatives of the Muslim world, to hear the voice of the true representatives of the Kashmiri people. Kashmir's disputed status is evident from the resolutions of the Security Council, the maps of the UN, and the presence of the UN observers on the cease-fire line. Perhaps, most importantly, the people of Kashmir do not consider themselves Indians. They clearly do not wish to be a part of India and their refusal can no longer be disguised by New Delhi. Even fraudulent elections are impossible for India to organize in Kashmir. I say that the lessons of history are clear. A genuine movement for liberation cannot be defeated. Its success can only be delayed. Witness the miracles in 1994 in South Africa, in Gaza, in Jericho. For the sake of justice, for the sake of regional stability and for the sake of world peace, a solution must be found to Kashmir, for Kashmir is a root cause of tension between India and Pakistan. It has been the root cause of the dangerous arms race that has eneveloped the subcontinent.

India's sincerity in talking peace with Pakistan will only be credible when it gives up waging war against the Kashmiri people. We have suggested reasonable and specific measures which India can take to extricate itself from its self-imposed quagmire. But India's campaign of terror continues to turn the valley of Kashmir into the killing fields of South Asia. The cause is as simple as it is brutal. India wants the land that belongs to the Kashmiris. For that it is prepared to destroy the Kashmiri people, to destroy the Kashmiri nation for its land.

I say to you today it is clear that the Muslims of Kashmir wish to be part of Pakistan. The Kashmiri people in their hearts and soul are Pakistanis. Only Indian bayonets and bullets stand in the way of Muslim unification. If anyone doubts that, I say to them put it to the democratic desk. I say to them, let us allow the people of Kashmir plebiscite to decide for themselves. Pakistan will accept the result of plebiscite.

Excellencies, brothers and sisters. The world has entered a new era in the aftermath of the Cold War. Global politics and economics are both in a state of flux. And in this new world, the Islamic countries must develop a strategy for unity. At this extraordinary session, we should start a process of introspection and review to develop such a strategy. The elements of Islamic renewal seem self-evident. First, a genuine responsiveness of our governments to the welfare and needs and wishes of our people. Second, an invigorated commitment to the fundamental principles of our immutable faith. Third, a conscious endeavor to build Islamic unity through the resolution of differences and cooperation and solidarity in various fields. Fourth, a courageous effort to counter the forces of extremism and terrorism. Fifth, a combined effort to tackle drug addiction and international drug trafficking, an enlightened program of action for social and economic development of Islamic countries and united opposition to all acts of aggression or injustice against Muslim people anywhere in the world. Our forthcoming summit in Morocco could be the moment to adopt such a strategy for Islamic renewal.

Excellencies, brothers and sisters! I want to thank you again for your support to the convening of the seventh extraordinary session of the Islamic conference of foreign ministers and for your participation in this session. Your presence here in Islamabad is a source of joy to all the people in Pakistan. Your solidarity with Pakistan is invaluable. Your friendship is irreplaceable. Brothers and sisters! As we move together from the end of one century to the beginning of next the next millennium, we cannot but be struck by the great opportunities and simultaneous dangers that lie ahead in the very new and uncharted waters of the post-Cold War era. As we look toward Bosnia, to Kashmir just a few miles from where we meet, let us say that these words are as true of the Muslim ummah as they have been for others. Let us say that every nation know—whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardships, support any friend, oppose any force to assure the survival and success of our ummah. The Islamic ummah, despite its present difficulties, will triumph in realizing its noble objectives with the help of almighty Allah. With his guidance and blessing, we shall not flinch nor waiver in meeting the challenges and opportunities of a new era that is now dawning. That is our faith. May Allah grant you success in your deliberations.

Thank you. [applause]

Bosnian Prime Minister's Speech

BK0709120094 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 0626 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Speech by Bosnia-Herzegovina Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic to the Seventh Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad—live]

[Text] Mohtarmah [respected] Madame Prime Minister, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary General, excellencies, distinguished delegates, brothers and sisters, dear friends! Assalamo Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh [peace be upon you and His blessings and benedictions].

Let me just briefly thank the people and government of Pakistan for their very warm welcome. We feel at home here, Madame Prime Minister.

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Bosnia will be today one of the issues we will discuss, among other important issues like Palestine, Jammu and Kashmir, [and] Afghanistan, and I thank you once again for turning your attention to the difficult issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina. I will not go into great details about what happened, knowing that you are fully aware of what happened there [and] what is happening right now.

Two and half years ago, the regime in Belgrade had embarked upon a military campaign against Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia with the aim to create Greater Serbia. That military campaign had been conducted and is conducted right now with unprecedented brutality and ferocity against civilian population. We lost close to 200,000 people, our country is devastated, [and] we lost 17,000 children. But, I am not here today to lament over our fate. I am here today to tell you that those you watched on the screens—besieged and killed, starved, raped, tortured and butchered—have found the strength to stand up on their two feet and fight back many times with bare hands against armor, tanks, airplanes and against the arms embargo that the international community has imposed on our government and our people. The arms embargo that is unfortunately and shamefully still valid, although it did not bring anything at all but misery, death and destruction. So, we think it is time to change the therapy for this illness if there is any justice in this world. So our people are fighting against this problem too.

I am here today to tell you that despite all these difficulties, [and] despite the arms embargo, we have been able to create an army—Bosnian Army—that guarantees that the project of the annihilation of Bosnia and especially the Bosnian Muslims will not be completed.

I am here today to tell you that we are past that stage, we are beyond the annihilation and that we shall, by God's will, win. Morally, we have already won, physically they cannot defeat us—we are past that stage. Thanks to God and all our friends that helped, and we hope they will continue to help.

Dear brothers and sisters, dear friends! That achievement alone is great. That achievement alone is an achievement of humankind, it is a victory of good over evil. But the Bosnians have achieved one more victory over which, I am sure, you are all proud. Because, the Bosnians have not returned in kind, the Bosnians have not raised their arms against unprotected, against women and children, the Bosnian have remained true to their historic mission, have remained true to the best tradition of Islam and are now victors without a stain. Our hands are clean, dear brothers and sisters, and I hope it will remain so. I said I hope, because let me tell you that the hardships we are going through and the injustice we are witnessing are stretching human limits to the very end. It is very difficult to endure all this and to be blamed for hypothetical radicalism. While radicalism, the most dangerous kind of it, the most radical ideology—fascism—is there on the ground to be seen. It's true that it is made in Europe, but it is still more dangerous than a hypothetical, radical fundamentalism—Islam—whatever, that might come even to Bosnia. This is not the way, as this is my message to those in the West. This is not the way to treat problems in Bosnia or in the Muslim world. This will bring problems, and I hope they understand this, because we have been saying this for three years now. Please do understand that Bosnia will be the model. Is the prison in which everything reflects and is the model of the future? [sentence as heard] Let Bosnia be, what used to be, a monument of cooperation, coexistence, brotherhood. Do not let it be divided on ethnic lines, do not let it answer the call [with] blood and fire. They did not listen. They think Bosnia was too small and unimportant to be relevant. Now they understand they were wrong, may be too late. Because the message is out that as long as you have enough time, sell arms, you can kill your neighbor, take his land and take his home, and if his fortune or unfortune is that he is a Muslim or so, it will facilitate everything. This is the message. I say, this is what is happening to Bosnia.

The silence over Kashmir, it is silence. Massacres happen without the world community even knowing about it. That is another crime. One crime happens there. Even if a child is killed, it is big crime. The other crime is to try and sweep it under the rug. And that is what is happening. Will that solve the problem? It will not solve the problem. This is a message to the West. That will not solve the problem. Bosnia will not solve the problem this way. They will never create [word indistinct], ever. So we shall remain the problem. So, cooperate with us. Otherwise, there will be message out to hundreds of millions of Muslims watching this and people of goodwill too, not only Muslims. That it is free for all. That we have no faith in the international order, in our resolutions, in the UN Charter. So let us arm up and defend ourselves, forget about the international order. This is a message. And that message will be read by hundreds of millions of Muslims that are trying to find a place under the sun and that is called fundamentalism. Well, they ask what is the definition of fundamentalism. I say whatever it means, a many [people] use it not even knowing what it means at all etymologically, but they use it. Whatever it means, it means that hundreds of millions of young people are conscious now of their identity, are conscious of their places in the world, are conscious of their history, of their tradition, and they want to cooperate.

The question here is, in Bosnia, Kashmir and elsewhere, will that be cooperation or confrontation? And it is a choice of the non-Muslims, not of the Muslims. They do not have the upper hand. The Western civilization has the upper hand. They must choose, if it is cooperation or confrontation. Over Bosnia, there is an extended hand of goodwill. Over Kashmir, over Palestine, there is an extended hand of goodwill that has been largely ignored or misunderstood until this day, and that can have great consequences.

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This is the first time I speak about this at a forum, high forum, like this one. So far, this has been a subject of intellectual circles, like of Carnegie house in Washington. But I noticed that it never crosses the threshold of government, State Department, and so on. Like these analyses are not politics—they are politics. Otherwise, it has [words indistinct], otherwise it is a world without a vision, without meaning, without substance and therefore without justice. We shall not solve our problems this way. Whoever thinks that his domination is forever and that he can control hopes of millions is wrong. Definitely wrong. Bosnia is the example. They came with the whole army, one of the strongest armies in Europe, against totally unarmed population. We now have some arms, smuggled arms into our own country, unfortunately because of the Security Council resolution. We make arms and we shall take arms from anywhere we can. But isn't it a shame that a victim of the fascist aggression must smuggle arms, small arms unfortunately only, into our own country? Isn't it a shame? This is defacing. Those who invoke everyday human rights, where are they? Human rights right now in Bosnia, this week, this week, about 2,000 people expelled from their homes. Nothing happens. Serbian fascist leaders threatened Muslims with annihilation openly, publicly, in DER SPIEGEL, the German paper—nothing happens. So what are we to do then? Are we to kill 17,000 children in order to get even with our enemy? Are we to apply the tactics of terror, destruction, are we to match the Stone Age we are thrown in against our will. Are we going to turn Bosnia [into a] civilized country as the Bosnians that offered refuge for hundreds of years without United Nations and declarations to Jews, Christians, others, everybody; whoever needed refuge found it [in] Bosnia. Are we to turn these people and this country into a Stone Age? I am [word indistinct] to think that the Bosnians will remain what they are and their history will be their best reference. And that is humane, tolerant, patient in the best Islamic tradition of those who are Muslims. And I am sure that when we meet again, Insha Allah [God willing], you will be proud of Bosnia, and you must be proud of Bosnia right now. And to those who create stereotypes—Muslim stereotype—they might be doing a big disfavor to them, because this hand extended there might get numb, if it stays there too long. If the rule of force is promoted and if the rule of law is ridiculed for a long time, then we might reap what we have sown. But not everything is dark.

We have a promise, a commitment of the United States of America Government that they will lift the arms embargo if the Serbs do not accept the plan. We have accepted the plan. So far we have been only punished for that. So we have played by the book of the international law. So far, we received only punishment. On the other side, the Contact Group, the international community, promised to lift the sanctions on Belgrade. Now they say they would like to lighten the sanctions. Sorry, they promised to tighten the sanctions, now they want to lift the sanctions. How come? Why? So we are punished again only because the leaders in Belgrade say they accept the peace plan [but] do nothing at all. The European governments are already thinking of lightening the sanctions on Belgrade. What are we to do then? Are we still to play by the book? Or are we going to return in kind because it seems that only that works; that you can get the attention only if you are a bad boy. But I [am] sure we shall continue this way, which is the Islamic way too. We shall not kill children, we shall not rape, we shall not torture, we shall remain true to the Bosnians and the Islamic tradition. The Christians, Jews and others will live with us safely. And we hope that those commitments on lifting of the arms embargo will remain true. We have faith in that. We are doing our best to make the federation and our alliance with the Croats work and it has generally led to great improvement. But to make all this work, we need your support and I hope that you will continue to participate in our big effort and the end result of it, I assure you, will be, Insha Allah, the victory of good over evil.

Thank you very much. Assalamo Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah. [Applause]

Pakistani Minister Address

BK0709151394 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The extraordinary session of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers began in Islamabad today with a call for devising a strategy for unity in the Muslim ummah [community]. In her inaugural address, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said the Muslim ummah must unitedly face all acts of aggression and injustice against Muslims, respond to the welfare needs of the people, resolve differences among all Islamic states, and counter the forces of extremism and terrorism. [passage omitted]

Addressing the second session, the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, who is also the chairman of the conference, said Pakistan will do its utmost to ameliorate the lot of the Muslim ummah. Pakistan fully supports the just cause of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and would continue extending its moral and diplomatic support to them. He also called for a solution of the issue in accordance with UN resolutions. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali also urged the ICO to do something concrete for the cause of the people of Bosnia, peace in Afghanistan, and support to Palestine for complete freedom.

The ICO secretary general, Dr. Hamid Algabid, said the Muslim ummah is gravely concerned over human rights violation in occupied Kashmir, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Afghanistan, and denial of complete freedom to Palestinians in the territories occupied by Israel. He expressed the hope that Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers meeting would evolve an effective strategy for solution of problems faced by the ummah. He also underlined the need for overcoming the financial problems of the organization.

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Earlier, Pakistan was elected chairman of the bureau [as heard] with Tunisia, Uganda, and Palestine as vice chairmen.

Kashmir, Bosnia Discussed

BK0709164794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has called upon the Islamic countries to formulate an effective strategy to counter unitedly all acts of aggression and injustice against Muslims throughout the world, including in occupied Kashmir. She was inaugurating the seventh extraordinary meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers in Islamabad today. [passage omitted]

Addressing the meeting, Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali—who is also chairman of the meeting—highlighted the tragic situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, where Indian troops are implementing a preplanned operation to crush the aspirations of the Kashmiri people struggling for freedom. The foreign minister said that Pakistan will continue to extend moral, political, and diplomatic support to the people of occupied Kashmir. He regretted that the ICO secretary general's efforts for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute have been met with Indian arrogance. The foreign minister urged the meeting's participants to reaffirm their wholehearted support for the Kashmiri people's struggle and to exert pressure on India to stop its brutal activities in the area.

Referring to the Bosnia-Herzegovina situation, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali presented a six-point formula [preceding word in English] that calls upon the European contact group to force the Serbs to accept the peace plan. The plan [mansuba] also says that UN resolutions on the region should be implemented and more UN troops should be sent to protect the besieged people of Bosnia.

The foreign minister offered Pakistan's services to restore peace in Afghanistan and said that peace can be established if the peace accord signed by the Afghan leaders is ever implemented.

In his statement to the meeting, ICO Secretary General Dr. Hamid Algabid highlighted the issues of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and Palestine.

On the situation in occupied Kashmir, he expressed the hope that the establishment of an ICO contact group in the United Nations will help the Islamic countries adopt a concerted strategy on the issue. They will then be able to help the Kashmiri people, who are struggling to secure their rights. He regretted that the longstanding dispute over Kashmir has affected the regional situation, noting that India has massively increased its military presence there.

The ICO secretary general also demanded the lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina and massive emergency aid for its reconstruction.

On Afghanistan, he said that the ICO will continue its efforts for a just solution of the problem so that the Afghan people can begin the reconstruction of their war-ravaged country.

The ICO secretary general said that the restoration of the authority of Muslims and Arabs over Holy Jerusalem is a prerequisite for a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

In their statements during the working session of the meeting, leaders of a number of delegations expressed concern over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and demanded the resolution of the issue according to UN resolutions. They expressed their sincere sympathy and wholehearted support for the Kashmiri people's struggle against the occupation forces.

During the working session, the foreign ministers of Bangladesh, Iran, and Gambia; ministers from Egypt, Malaysia, Turkey, and Iraq; and delegates from Sudan expressed total solidarity with and support for the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They supported lifting the arms embargo against the Bosnian Government.

In a news briefing, a Foreign Office spokesman said that informal consultations will also be held on the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan.

The prime minister is holding consultations at the conference center with delegation leaders on bilateral and international issues of mutual interest. She had meetings with delegations from Kuwait, Bangladesh, Iran, Gambia, Turkey, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Comoros this evening.

Palestinian Affairs

PNA Official Discusses Amman Talks

JN0309110994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Sep 94 (Section Two) p 1

[Interview with PNA "Finance Minister" Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi by Tawfiq 'Abid in Amman, date not given]

[Text] ['Abid] We have little information on your meetings in Jordan. The statement [issued on the conclusion of Jordanian-Palestinian talks in Amman [on 22 August] provided little information. Can you provide us with details on these meetings?

[Al-Nashashibi] Talks focused on three basic fields: Political, economic, and administrative affairs, as well as Palestinian passports, which are expected to be issued after the Arab League gives its approval.

Regarding the economic and financial issues, talks revolved around the economic agreement Jordan signed

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with Israel. We explained our position very clearly. We said we do not object to the export of Jordanian products to the West Bank. The value of the deal—$30 million—is not worth an agreement. We hope Jordanian exports to the West Bank will exceed $100 million and that we will have an open ceiling for the volume of trade between us.

The Jordanian officials explained that the agreement is only transitional and that they will sign agreements with the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] to export Jordanian products as soon as it assumes power in the West Bank. We told the Jordanian officials there is no need to sign an agreement with Israel, especially since we are going to assume powers in a few days times.

In view of the financial difficulties facing the Palestinian Authority, we considered the idea of introducing a small customs tariff on imports from Jordan in an effort to protect local industries. We, however, decided to defer this measure in order to prevent an increase in the price of the Jordanian foodstuffs that are exported to the West Bank. We learned that it is important to free exports from any constraints, other than the local fees that are charged inside [the self-rule area].

During the talks, we also noted the importance of exporting agricultural products from the West Bank to, and via, Jordan. We also asked for another review of the so-called "agricultural calendar." The Jordanian team to the negotiations noted the importance of this issue and stressed the need for a thorough study of it in the light of the common interests of the producer in both the West Bank and Jordan. A review of this "calendar" will help facilitate the export of more Palestinian agricultural products to Jordan. The Jordanian team welcomed this request. We will task experts from the two sides to discuss the best dates for the agricultural calendar. We went even further and discussed the need for more study of the agricultural pattern, so we can plan what we can export and not search all the time for markets for our agricultural products.

We also discussed the exchange of scientific research in the fields of agriculture and waters. We noted the need to have a unified position in negotiations with Israel over Arab rights to the Jordan River basin, its arteries, and the ground water in the West Bank.

We also agreed with our Jordanian brothers to draft a list of the goods that can be exported or imported by the two sides and to present this list to those concerned. Representatives of the chambers of trade, commerce, and agriculture in both countries can meet in the future to determine the goods that can be exchanged on the largest possible scale.

['Abid] Considering the fact that you do not approve of the agreement between Jordan and Israel, will you sign a new agreement to exchange goods and products with Jordan?

[Al-Nashashibi] We are prepared to sign a new agreement. We think the agreement Jordan signed with Israel will end on the day we assume power in the West Bank and assume responsibility for issuing import licenses.

Talks also focused on issues of tourism and joint tourist projects. There are broad prospects for action in the field of tourism, particularly in Bethlehem, the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea area, and the archaeological and historical sites in Palestine and Jordan. We also discussed the establishment of joint projects to store agricultural products and then export them at certain seasons.

Discussion also revolved around the possibility of utilizing Jordanian electrical energy. We asked to join the five-party agreement on linking the electricity grids of Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Turkey. Our Jordanian brothers promised to support this request at the next meeting of the countries participating in the project. After a discussion, the conferees reached the conclusion that Jordan's surplus electrical energy will not be sufficient to supply the West Bank's electricity needs. At the same time, we welcome any Jordanian effort in this regard. Experts believe Jericho might be supplied with electrical energy from Jordan.

['Abid] Jordan will be affected by the issuance of Palestinian passports. Its treasury will suffer major losses because most residents of the occupied homeland carry Jordanian passports. Frankly, what was the position of the Jordanian officials when you discussed this issue?

[Al-Nashashibi] Jordan did not object to the PNA's issuance of passports to the Palestinian citizens. The Jordanian negotiators, however, pointed out certain technical points. We agreed to hold further technical talks, particularly as regards the Palestinians outside Palestine, and to take into account the common interest and the interests of the bearer of that passport.

['Abid] The Jordanian-Palestinian relationship saw some retreat recently. It also saw tension on more than one level. Did these talks help cleanse the atmosphere?

[Al-Nashashibi] Brothers: We have not seen such tension, except in the media. In fact, the kind welcome and the warm feelings with which we were received confirmed to us that the tension you are talking about exists only in the media. There may be differences over a point or two, but it has been confirmed to me that there is no tension in relations.

The talks were conducted in a comfortable, friendly, and very sincere atmosphere. They were characterized by a constructive pan-Arab spirit and concern for the common interest.

['Abid] Licensing of Jordanian banks in the West Bank is one of the disputed issues. What happened in this regard. What about supervision of these banks?

[Al-Nashashibi] The issues of banks, the supervision and licensing of banks, and monetary policy occupied a large

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part of these talks. We stressed to the Jordanian negotiators what the 7 January agreement stipulated about the need to set up a Palestinian monetary authority and a Palestinian-Jordanian monetary committee to supervise, temporarily, the banking activity in the West Bank. In our supervision of banks in the West Bank and Gaza, we are concerned about two points: Preserving the dinar's exchange rate, and second, protecting the interests of the depositors in these banks. Discussion on the joint supervision was held on that basis. We will discuss further details later.

['Abid] What about the financial restrictions on the autonomous authority? Have there been fresh contacts with the donor countries in this regard?

[Al-Nashashibi] Our links with the international community pass through two channels: The first is the donor countries and the IMF, which manages the sums which the donor countries have promised to pay; and the second is the (Host) fund, which provides support for the Palestinian budget.

The assistance we received is below the expected level. This assistance helped meet the requirements of the administrative staff in the Gaza Strip. We now expect to obtain further financial assistance to face the great burdens on the budget after the recent transfer of powers in the West Bank, especially in the Education and health fields where the number of workers in these two areas amounts to 16,000.

In order to meet the new demands, we insist on receiving all kinds of taxes, not only the income tax, and that Israel hand over to us the customs duties it obtained on goods and commodities bound for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. This will lighten the burden for the PNA.

So far, Israel has failed to give figures for the taxes and duties it has collected. We demand that the money be handed over to us. However, when we take control of the crossings, we will be able to know all the goods that enter the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israel and abroad. We will be able to ascertain the values of the customs and excise duties and the added taxes.

We asked Israel to make the settlement of accounts a weekly practice. I would like to add that the transit crossings are being constructed. We will not accept any crossing point on our territory if it does not come under our control.

['Abid] Reports say economic conditions in Gaza have deteriorated after the Palestinian takeover. What does the Palestinian finance minister say to that?

[Al-Nashashibi] To the contrary, the economic conditions in Gaza are better. This is clear from the availability of commodities in the market, the building of houses, and the activities in the field of reconstruction.

There is a $10 million agreement signed with the Japanese government to build housing units for the police and $5 million contribution toward the plan to beautify Gaza. The IMF and Norway also continued to contribute toward this plan.

A project is now being implemented on the treatment of solid waste which is not really up to the standard that we had hoped for. We did not want it to be a project merely to transfer the waste. Work on water treatment in Gaza will soon begin. Efforts are now being exerted to solve the problem of salty and undrinkable water to avoid problems.

As for the Ministry of Agriculture, we have prepared an ambitious plan to develop the growing of fruits, vegetables, and flowers for export. We expect mulberry production to double this year.

We expect to export 100 million flowers to Europe this year—50 million from the Gaza Strip, 30 million from Jericho, and 20 million from the West Bank. We propose to strengthen the presence of agricultural observers on the border to ensure the best quality of products and to prevent the export of products that are unfit for human consumption and insecticides that are not approved.

We began to promote tourist projects in the Gaza Strip, and we proposed to those who are concerned in the private sector to prepare a basic plan for the Gaza beach, this beautiful beach which deserves to be developed and filled with tourist facilities. Among the projects which also show that the economic wheel is moving and refute the negative reports is the beginning of work at the emergency port in Gaza. Work at this project is scheduled to end within the next three months after which the port will be able to receive ships loaded with bulk material. After we complete our studies, we will begin work immediately on the project of the permanent port which will greatly contribute to the reactivation of trade in Gaza. We discussed with the private sector the possibility of building tourist villages along the beach.

['Abid] On the Arab level, what do you have to tell Arab investors, and can the Palestinian territories accommodate a huge amount of capital?

[Al-Nashashibi] I believe that Arab financiers and investors can achieve great success and carry out economically-feasible projects in the fields of trade, industry, agriculture, banking, and services in the West Bank. We wholeheartedly welcome Arab investors and hope that they will focus their attention on the Palestinian territories during the next meetings of the Arab Social and Economic Council and the Arab Economic Unity Council.

['Abid] What does the Palestinian finance minister have to say to the Palestinian expatriate investors?

[Al-Nashashibi] To these investors I say, be brave and come immediately, because loyalty to the homeland necessitates your sincere and constructive presence in order to contribute to a comprehensive economic development which will result from this Palestinian expatriate

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capital. We promise to extend every possible aid and assistance to investors. We also tell investors that there are several prospects in the field of banking, tourism, real estate, and housing. We tell these investors that the economic wheel is moving; so, what role will you have in supplying it with all means of strength? The homeland is calling on you to come.

Groups Deny Syria Asked To Hand Over Leaders

JN0609114794 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 5 Sep 94 p 5

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi from Damascus]

[Text] Sources from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], which is led by Dr. George Habash, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]; which is led by Ahmad Jibril, have denied any knowledge of a request made to Syria to hand over Jibril and Habash. A spokesman for the PFLP-GC told Al-WASAT: We have no information about such a request, and the front has nothing to do with the international terrorist Carlos. The spokesman had said that such a request was made in the past concerning the Lockerbie case between Libya and Western countries. However, there was no evidence in this regard. Syria has always replied that it needs tangle proof as to Jibril's involvement in the U.S. Pan Am plane crash in 1989. The spokesman explained that the PFLP-GC does not believe in operations abroad.

As for the PFLP, ranking sources told AL-WASAT that Syria was not asked to hand over Dr. Habash. The sources added that the PFLP's relations with Syria are very good. The sources added: We have special relations with it. Syria supports our national struggle. The sources added that it is not the first time that quarters hostile to our national struggle have spoken about Habash and Jibril and accused them of terrorism to defame them and the national struggle.

PFLP sources said that the PFLP and other Palestinian factions are proud of their relations with Syria. The sources added: We share a common stand of distinguishing between national struggle and terrorism.

Informed Syrian sources told AL-WASAT that Damascus earlier received requests to hand over Ahmad Jibril to the United States but that it refused to do so for lack of solid evidence on Ahmad Jibril's responsibility for any terrorist action. The sources denied any connection between the request [as published] and the Carlos episode.

Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, told AL-WASAT that he does not understand why Carlos was handed over to Paris. Al-Shaqaqi, who has close relations with Sudan's Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Islamic Front, said he has faith in the Sudanese leader.

Germany Signs Agreement To Fund Projects

TA0509121294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Sep 94 p C2

[Report by Uri Nir]

[Text] The German Government signed an agreement with the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA] on 3 September to fund infrastructure and development projects in the PNA to the tune of DM23 million [German marks] (some 44 million shekels). The projects are mainly in water purification and improving the sewage system, and many are due to be implemented this year.

The agreement was signed by was signed by Abu-'Ala [Ahmad Quray'], who has the economy and trade portfolio in the PNA, and Herbert Salman, head of the Middle East Department in Germany's Ministry of Economics.

It was also agreed that the official personal documents issued by the PNA, such as ID card's, will continue to be printed in Germany. The German Government will also provide the Palestinians with technical aid in various fields.

Germany is the first state to open a diplomatic representation in Gaza and Jericho.

Sha'th on Possible Bhutto Visit, Arrests

NC0809071194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian National Authority minister for planning and cooperation, has revealed that Pakistani Prime Minister Mrs. Benazir Bhutto has agreed to dispatch her Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali to Gaza soon to investigate the possibility of her visiting the Palestinian Autonomy regions. She was unable to do so early this month as a result of the Israeli stand regarding arrangements for her visit. Israel imposed the condition that Bhutto must get its approval before making a visit.

Sha'th says in an interview with AL-AHRAM newspaper to be published today that the message Bhutto received from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat the day before yesterday thanked her immensely for her efforts. In the message, 'Arafat also expressed his hopes that what happened will not prevent her from visiting Gaza on another occasion.

Sha'th pointed out that Bhutto affirmed her support for the question of Palestine.

Sha'th affirmed that the problem regarding the entry of officials into the autonomy areas will not be resolved until all the crossings are handed over fully to the Palestinians, which is what Israel is stalling over.

Answering a question on the possibility that the Palestinian police's arrests of members of the Islamic Jihad

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movement in Gaza the day before yesterday were carried out under Israeli pressure, Sha'th said that we must realize that there is only one Palestinian Authority in the autonomy areas, not many. He noted that the arrests are linked to the recent killing of an Israeli soldier in an ambush in Gaza.

He added that the arrests are not open-ended or unlimited. There are also restrictions governing them, namely the right of the detainees to defend themselves. He said there are certain parties supervising how these detainees are treated, such as the Red Cross and the human rights' organizations.

'Abbas Not To Participate in National Authority

JN0709200394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Mazin al-Saghir from Tunis]

[Text] Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, headed for Jericho via Amman yesterday. In a predeparture statement to AL-HAYAH, 'Abbas said that his return to the homeland is natural, however, he ruled out his participation in the self-rule national authority.

Asked about the reason for this change and his decision to return, Abu-Mazin said: "There is no condition for returning to the homeland, and nothing has changed. From the beginning, I decided to return, but at the appropriate time; that is, after the National Authority begins its work and activities. Since the beginning, I decided not to be a part of the authority. The people's return, however, is necessary, and will strengthen their affiliation to the homeland. This will be the first visit, and then we will arrange our affairs to settle permanently in the homeland."

On his political role, Abu-Mazin said: "The members of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee consider the Palestinian National Authority their point of reference in the absence of the Palestine National Council. This situation will continue until elections are held, a new authority is established, or a new situation, different from the current one, appears. As for now, the PLO is the one that signed the agreement with Israel."

In response to a question, Abu-Mazin said: "I will first arrive in Jericho. Afterward, I will visit Gaza and the West Bank. Definitely, I will see my brothers in the Palestinian Authority and brother Yasir 'Arafat."

On the possibility of holding meetings with Jordanian officials in the Jordanian capital, Abu-Mazin said : "Meetings may be held with our brothers in Jordan. Usually, when I go to Amman, I meet with them, if their circumstances permit."

Asked his opinion about the progress of self-rule and the negotiations to implement it, he said: "In fact, I am not satisfied with the progress of negotiations by either side because I had wished the negotiations would have taken another course. I cannot now assess the situation because I am not aware of the circumstances that led to this wasting of time. Consequently, I have to inquire to know why. But so far, I am not satisfied with the progress of negotiations or the topics of those negotiations.

PFLP-GC Condemns Arrests of Militants

JN0709205794 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Statement by PFLP-GC; date and place not given]

[Text] A responsible source in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has made a statement on the wave of arrests made by the repressive 'Arafat authority against Palestinian mujahidin and strugglers, saying:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The 'Arafat authority has continued to make large-scale arrests targeting a large number of members of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine. These arrests have come in the aftermath of previous arrests targeting members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, strugglers of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and other Palestinians.

All these arrests have been made in the aftermath of operations carried out by Palestinian mujahidin and strugglers against Zionist enemy targets. This confirms that the 'Arafat authority serves as a protective shield for the occupation troops and settlers, and also that this is its main task. Moreover, these arrests have been made in response to explicit demands by the terrorist Rabin and his cabinet ministers. This shows that the 'Arafat authority is subservient to the Zionists.

The responsible source added: The 'Arafat authority has continued to make arrests, taking advantage of the eagerness of the nationalistic and Islamic militant forces to ward off sedition and civil strife, which 'Arafat seeks to foment in order to achieve one of the basic objectives of the agreement he has concluded with the terrorist Rabin. These arrests are meant to promote the occupation and its schemes, and bring about civil war in Palestine. The 'Arafat authority is placing nationalistic and Islamic forces before tough choices.

The declared objective of these arrests, which is warding off attacks on enemy targets, is only the tip of the iceberg. But, the hidden part of the iceberg is far more horrendous. The objective is to foment a bloody intra-Palestinian conflict, which is meant to allow 'Arafat to consummate his task; namely, destroying all objectives of the Palestinian national struggle.

While strongly condemning the arrests of mujahidin and strugglers, including men who have made dear sacrifices in the march of our national struggle, such as the repatriated deportee Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, we,

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within the PFLP-GC, would like to warn the 'Arafat authority against going too far in its suspect scheme. Similarly, we would like to reiterate that the struggle against the enemy will continue unabated, and that it is too strong to be undermined by the efforts of 'Arafat and his clique, and their determination to implement the dictates of the terrorist Rabin.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

DFLP Activist Detained

TA0409174594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Palestinian sources in Gaza have told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that this morning the Palestinian security services detained Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] activist 'Abd-al-Hakim Muhsin, from the village of Bayt Lahiyah in the Strip. Our correspondent notes that on 2 September, the Palestinian security services detained five DFLP activists suspected of involvement in a gunfire attack on an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol in the Strip last week. The number of DFLP detainees now stands at six.

Isma'il Badir, age 27, was knifed to death in the Tulkarm refugee camp tonight. Palestinian sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the incident took place near the refugee camp mosque and that the murder was connected to internal strife among Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the camp.

'Over 70' Said Held

TA0709194294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Over 70 members of organizations opposed to the Oslo agreement—radical Islamic and rejectionist groups—have been detained in the Gaza Strip so far. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem notes that the volume of arrests exceeds the volume customary even in investigations of terror acts. Among the detainees are numerous political leaders of the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, including Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami. Most of the detainees are Muslim zealots.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has published a leaflet calling on the autonomous authority to release the Islamic Jihad activists at once. The leaflet says the Israeli-PLO agreement undermines Palestinian unity and sows dissension between Palestinian policemen and their brethren fighting the occupation.

Security Chief Outlines Role of New Authority

MS0809103694 London THE INDEPENDENT in English 8 Sep 94 p 11

[Report on interview with Jibril Rajub, head of "Preventative Security" for the new Palestine Authority in the West Bank, by Sarah Helm; in Jericho; date not given]

[Text] "You want something else? You have another question?" A stubby finger stabs out from behind the desk. Jibril Rajub, head of "Preventative Security" for the new Palestine National Authority in the West Bank, does not like questions.

"Rajub's men", youths in jeans, swinging rifles, loiter outside the door. Despite the 40C heat, there is a chill in Mr. Rijub's dingy Jericho headquarters. This figure, in his colonel's fatigues, bald, with a thin moustache, who spent 17 years in Israeli jails (he threw a grenade at a lorry carrying Israeli troops) was once a national hero. Now his men are feared by many Palestinians.

"Why are your own people afraid of you?" Mr. Rajub stiffens and the finger stabs out again. "Why you ask such question? What is it you want?" Then, curling his lip, he said "If my own people fear me it is because they know they have done something wrong. They have done something dark in their past. My role is only to protect the people. To ensure human rights and freedom of speech."

For all the colonel's bravado, all is not well in the Palestinian security forces. There are signs of disarray in the agencies set up by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. A member of Mr. 'Arafat's presidential guard was shot dead by Mr. Rajub's forces in the West Bank town of Tulkarm on Saturday.

The incident was seen as the opening shot in a struggle for power between Mr. Rajub and Mr. 'Arafat's supporters. "What incident in Tulkarm? Nothing happened in Tulkarm," Mr. Rajub says. "There are many people causing trouble, pretending to be security when they are not. I have the power to control such people. I have the manpower."

Mr. 'Arafat is accused by some Palestinians of using Mr. Rajub and his Gaza counterpart, Muhammad Dahlan, to quash dissent. It was "Rajub's men" who threatened the pro-Jordanian newspaper, AL-NAHAR, leading to its closure last month. The paper reopened this week, taking a more pro-PLO stance.

More serious than internal squabbles is Israeli pressure on the Palestinian security forces to act against their own militants. Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, and Islamic Jihad, continue to attack Israeli targets. At the week-end an Israeli soldier was shot dead in Gaza by Islamic Jihad gunmen.

Yitzhaq Rabin wants Mr. 'Arafat to round up Palestinian militants. Otherwise, says Mr. Rabin, there will be no extension of autonomy. This week Mr. 'Arafat's officers in Gaza rounded up 36 members of Islamic Jihad. Mr. 'Arafat now faces pressure to act against Hamas. There are demands for the PLO to extradite suspects to Israel.

The Israeli pressure presents Mr. 'Arafat with a dilemma. If anti-Israeli attacks continue, Mr. Rabin will

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refuse the PLO more concessions. But to act as Israel's policeman may ignite a serious conflict between the PLO and the Palestinian opposition, who say their military actions are in revenge for Israeli actions.

Many Palestinian families support both camps. Mr. Rajub's brother, Yusef Rajub, was arrested recently by Israel for membership of Hamas. As Israeli pressure mounts, Mr. 'Arafat may have to unleash Jibril Rajub to do Mr. Rabin's bidding. When Palestinian police arrested 20 Hamas activists in mid-August, Hamas threatened a "military jihad in Gaza". Most suspects were released quickly. Mr. Rajub says a confrontation with the opposition is unlikely. He says he has a "good relationship with Hamas". He says he is "trying to convince the people to respect the agreement and to tell the opposition not to violate the agreement...not because we like the Israelis or we want to make Rabin glad, but because we think it is good for our people."

Asked if he would hand over Palestinian militants to Israelis, Mr. Rajub shrugs. "You have another question?" Outside, the large black steel gate closes as more of "Rajub's men" drive by.

Banned Daily Returns Following 36-Day Shut Down

TA0509093394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] AL-NAHAR, the Arabic daily published in East Jerusalem, hit the stands this morning after being shut down by the PLO for 36 days. PLO security officials said distribution of the paper had been stopped because AL-NAHAR had not obtained the appropriate permits from the Palestinian Authority, but it was widely assumed that Yasir 'Arafat was unhappy with the paper's alleged pro- Jordanian tilt. Reporter Yoni Ben-Menahem asked AL-NAHAR publisher 'Uthman al-Hallaq whether the paper would be pro-PLO.

[Begin recording] [Al-Hallaq] I refute this phrase because actually AL-NAHAR was from the beginning a Palestinian paper to the core, and it always was in defense of the cause of the Palestinian people.

[Ben-Menahem] You say that it was not a pro-PLO newspaper, that it was a pro-Jordanian. Are you going now to change maybe the policy of the newspaper?

[Al-Hallaq] I refute this conception because I do not believe there is pro-PLO and pro-Jordan. We are all Palestinians, we have one goal, we are striving to unite our people under the leadership of the true representative of the people, the PLO. [end recording]

Former Editor Comments

JN0809081194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8-9 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Sana Atiyah; "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[Text] Amman—Former chief editor and co-owner of east Jerusalem's AL-NAHAR newspaper, Issam 'Anani quit the daily a few days before the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) shut it down in late July.

In an interview with the JORDAN TIMES, Mr. 'Anani said that his decision to quit AL-NAHAR paper came "60 hours before I heard of its ban."

"I decided to leave the paper due to political, financial and administrative differences I had with my partner, 'Uthman (George) Hallaq," Mr. 'Anani said from his Amman home. "I did not have an inkling that the PNA was about to close down the paper."

After 36 days of AL-NAHAR's closure, it reappeared on Monday with an editorial pledging allegiance to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and an announcement that Mr. 'Anani was no longer associated with the daily.

The PNA closed down the paper shortly after Jordan and Israel signed the Washington Declaration on July 25 where Israel recognised the Kingdom's special role in the guardianship of the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.

"We consider the ban of AL-NAHAR as a summer cloud which has gone and the reason for the ban has gone," its editorial read on Monday.

Mr. 'Anani, however, said that he had told Mr. Hallaq of his intention to leave the paper six months ago when he stopped writing political columns and went to the paper only once a week although he was chief editor. He added that he had returned to putting in more into his profession as a lawyer.

"My resignation came into effect 60 hours before the news of the paper's closure came out," said Mr. 'Anani one day after his arrival from Jerusalem.

He could not confirm reports that one of the conditions AL-NAHAR had to meet before reopening was that he would have to leave the paper. But he said that two of the conditions were that the paper would adopt the PLO's official political line and that a PNA representative had to clear every article written about Jordan, Syria and other Arab countries before publication.

Palestinian journalists in the West Bank, who feared the closure of AL-NAHAR would set a precedent for the PNA to crack down on journalists opposing some PLO policies, criticised the ban as violation of freedom of expression and cautioned against the principle of repressing that freedom.

While the Palestinian authority had officially said its decision to shut down the daily was because it did not have a license, they privately criticized the paper for "being a mouthpiece for Jordan," and suspected it to being financed by the Kingdom.

Mr. 'Anani, who founded the paper eight years ago with a pro-Jordanian editorial policy, confirmed that his

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newspaper obtained "symbolic financial assistance" from Jordan in the first few years of its establishment.

"But these small contributions stopped after Jordan disengaged administrative ties with the West Bank in 1988," Mr. 'Anani said, adding that the paper was mostly financed by himself and Mr. Hallaq. Mr. 'Anani said he was pro-Hashemite and that he strongly believed in "Jordanian-Palestinian unity and Arab unity in general," while the PLO wants its own independent state in the West Bank and Gaza with Jerusalem as its capital.

"In my opinion, the unity of the East and West Banks for 19 years before Israel captured the West Bank in 1967 was the most successful experiment of its kind in the Arab World," Mr. 'Anani said. "The two banks with their culture and peoples are an extension of each other, they are the closest neighbours and share the longest borders."

In the meantime, Mr. 'Anani said he will completely cut his relations with AL-NAHAR once he has sold his 40 per cent shares and then pursue his career as a fulltime attorney. He added that he might continue to contribute articles to Arab papers on either side of the Jordan River.

'Arafat Reportedly Endorses Hamas Newspaper

JN0809092094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] 'Imad al-Faluji, one of the figures of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has stated that His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday endorsed the publication of AL-WATAN newspaper in Gaza as the mouthpiece of Hamas. Al-Faluji said that his meeting with President 'Arafat was successful. Al-Faluji noted that the newspaper will follow, within an Islamic framework, a policy opposed to the peace process.

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Algeria

President's Statement to Dialogue Parties

LD0709182594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] As was agreed on 24 August after the last dialogue meeting, a new meeting took place on Monday, 5 September 1994, between the state president and the following five political parties: the National Liberation Front [FLN], Algerian Renewal Party [PRA], Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA], Ennahda, and Hamas [Islamic Society Movement].

At the opening of this meeting, the state president made a preliminary statement in which he summarized the contents of his communique at the previous session. The state president said in this communique, whose text was published by the national press, the following:

Through this reminder, I wanted to clarify the situation we all find ourselves in—the state and political parties, those which are present and those which are absent from the dialogue. Violence prevails in our country and we are unanimous in saying that it must stop and we must work together to put an end to it.

The transitional period is considered necessary in the view of all of us. You are all invited to participate in contributing to its functioning in the widest possible form. The elections will shape the outcome of this transitional period. You are all invited to set a date for them.

A dialogue was begun to discuss all these issues. This dialogue has a national dimension with respect to the framework set for it, such as respecting the constitution, laws, and rejecting violence.

This is the dialogue which brings us together and from which we, and all the absent parties, have expectations. We will entrench it and conduct it with necessary determination and patience in line with the challenges it presents.

Because of the openness we are all adhering to, the Algerian people are capable of observing progress and judging it. I hope that the Algerian people will be a witness to, and the beneficiary of the constructive results it awaits. During the two meetings held on 5 September, the dialogue permitted the discussion of the following subjects:

1. The two letters of [imprisoned Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, leader] Mr. Abassi Madani. The two letters of Mr. Abassi Madani were the subject of deep debates, and the following remarks should be made:

A. On 25 [as heard] August Mr. Abassi Madani wrote a letter which he sent to the state president and the political parties gathered around the discussions table. As explained by the state president on 5 September, this letter was an initiative of the officials of the dissolved party [FIS], in jail in Blida, and it was not preceded by any direct or indirect contact or move on the part of the authority toward them, as some sources believe. The state president received Mr. Abassi Madani's letter on 25 August, and on 26 August, representatives of the state met with Mr. Abassi Madani in Blida to ask for clarifications concerning his letter. On 27 August, the state president received a second letter from Mr. Abassi Madani, and on 29 August the presidency handed over copies of the two letters to the officials of the five parties which had agreed to take part in the dialogue. On 30 August, representatives of the state met with Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj [FIS deputy leader] as well as with three of their colleagues in jail, concerning the two letters in question. On 1 September, another meeting took place between representatives of the state and the same group of five leaders [of parties participating in the dialogue] and the officials of the dissolved party, and today the press was informed of the contents of the two letters.

At the meeting that took place on 5 September with the parties, the state president asked the leaders of these parties about their views concerning the two letters of Mr. Abassi Madani. The political parties unanimously stated that Mr. Abassi Madani's letter dated 23 August constituted a positive initiative, and contained proposals which can be discussed. The parties were of the opinion that this endeavor showed that the dissolved party might participate in solving the crisis.

In his reply to the questions put forward by the parties regarding his appraisal of the two letters sent by Abassi Madani, the state president stated the following: When I handed you these two letters I told you that they entailed new elements which deserved looking into. I would like to reaffirm to you this viewpoint. We record with satisfaction that the author of the two letters is of the opinion that the document is open for discussion, amendment, and enrichment. This too is a positive element especially since the tribulation being experienced by our country is a complicated task [as heard]. But at the same time we regret that the author of the letters is rejecting any discussion. He has imposed a precondition which complicates matters. We have also tried to understand the position of the author and the position of his colleague Ali Belhadj. Representatives of the state contacted the two Blida prisoners following the receipt of the first letter of Mr. Abassi Madani, and also after receiving his second letter. In this connection we gathered elements that require more clarification.

Regarding the parties which suggested—according to Mr. Abassi Madani's letter—that the dissolved party should be invited to the dialogue table, the state president made the following reply: Mr. Abassi and his colleagues in prison should clarify their position. The content of the letter of Mr. Abassi Madani is a free initiative by him and by his colleagues in prison. A short while ago I reaffirmed to you that this initiative has not been enriched by any step or contact by the authority,

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nor was it a result of any alleged mediation, externally or internally. You know my clear position which rejects any interference or intervention in our national problems which will be settled in Algeria and between Algerians alone. I therefore repeat what I have said that the letter of Mr. Abassi is a free initiative by the prisoners of Blida—an initiative worthy of attention which we want to encourage.

If the Blida prisoners agree to submit the clarification expected of them we will then see how we can gradually work to allow the leaders of the dissolved party to define the methods and means for halting the shedding of the blood of Algerians and to allow us to advance together toward returning the country to normalcy. The conditions that I have laid down are the fundamental bases for maintaining civil peace and the constitutional system in Algeria, for elevating them above partisan or self-serving interests. It is not in the interest of anyone to oppose these bases, whether the citizens who seek security and reassurance, or any political movement that aspires under legitimacy and the real democratic system to play a role in Algeria's future.

The prisoners in Blida have made a first step the nature of which we cannot overlook. The state expressed in exchange that it effectively encouraged the step toward a political solution, and we are expecting from them a sign which corresponds with the aspirations of the whole Algerian nation.

As far as you are concerned, you the ones who have understood well the meaning of my statements—in contrast to those who want to convince others that we ask you to be mediators, I leave you the freedom again to contact the prisoners in Blida so that you can personally get confirmation about the facts I mentioned.

The state president added that he would remain in contact with the prisoners in Blida.

The necessary conditions for making the dialogue successful: During the meeting of 24 August, the parties attending the dialogue asked to add a point to the agenda proposed by the state president concerning what they described as necessary conditions for making the dialogue successful. The state president agreed to discuss this issue.

During Monday's talks, the FLN, Hamas, the MDA, and Ennahda, said that these conditions are contained in the statement consisting of 14 points, which they sent together to the authorities in the letter dated 4 January 1994.

For its part, the PRA said that in its view, the success of the dialogue is conditional on the six following factors: Restoring people's trust through dialogue due to its transparence; all parties concerned declaring their will to reach a solution; reviving political activity; rehabilitating the dissolved party; defining the election timetable; and agreeing on the way to fulfil the conditions for holding elections.

It is worth mentioning that the PRA submitted a document expressing its stance which it also handed to the press. The joint statement of the other four parties, containing 14 points, prevailed in the discussion.

Replying to these proposals, the state president began by pointing out that he was obliged to mention that every time calming measures or initiatives were taken, including launching the dialogue, one noticed an escalation in terrorism.

Commenting on the 14 points included in the statement [of 4 January 1994], President Liamine Zeroual noticed that eight of them have been complied with. These include putting an end to carrying out death sentences, respecting citizen's liberties and rights, lifting restrictions on practising political activities, granting freedom of information and press, as well as respecting national feelings and mosques which are holy sites for all Algerians.

He made it clear that all security [detention] centers are almost closed. He asked for clarifications on non-political societies which had asked to be reinstated.

On other measures requested by the political parties, the state president pointed out that decisions made to placate all segments of the Algerian population must also correspond with an improvement of the security situation in the country. In this way, citizens will be reassured and the sovereignty of legitimacy, protection of citizens and national heritage will be guaranteed.

President Liamine Zeroual stressed to the political parties that the state shares with them their concern for an amelioration of the current situation. He proposed that they contribute in this regard. The particular contribution expected of these parties is that they call for an end to the blind violence hanging over Algeria and launch a campaign to explain that Islam totally rejects that violence.

Regarding the political parties invited to but still absent from the dialogue, the state president and the parties participating in the dialogue agreed on the need to continue efforts to bring them to the dialogue table.

Regarding Monday's meeting, the state president outlined the numerous contacts which the presidency has conducted with these parties since 21 August, among them a meeting with the Ettahadi Party and the Socialist Forces Front whose results were announced. The parties also discussed contacts with these groups.

Concerning this very subject, the state president announced the following:

For our part we are continuing our efforts to persuade the invited, but absent, parties because their refusal to join the diaoluge table does not rest on convincing arguments. Indeed, there are those who announce that they will not join the dialogue because it does not serve democracy or it constitutes a waste of time. To those I

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would reiterate that the principles of democracy constitute the firm foundation of this dialogue and that democracy rests on discussion and the exchange of ideas. Declaring that the dialogue is a waste of time, while the country is witnessing instability and while the state and a great many citizens are making every effort to preserve Algeria, is a regrettable announcement. Others say that the dialogue's aim is to agree on decisions previously taken and to involve the parties in pre-conceived perceptions. I invite you to study the statements made and published at the end of our meetings. I invite you to attend to make sure that their lack of trust is unjustified. I have said and I reiterate my statement that the dialogue is open to all subjects provided that all [political] orientations uphold the principles of respecting the constitution and the laws and rejecting violence. Aside from that any subject can be discussed and every decision will be taken with collective consent regarding participation in the running of the transitional period or the organization of the elections.

Time is important to the extent that it is imperative for everyone to make an effort to overcome his reservations and to give a chance to dialogue and to exploit these opportunities for Algeria and Algeria alone.

It is incumbent upon you, the officials of the parties, to persuade your absent colleagues. The democratic and pluralistic Algeria, which is an inevitable reality, demands from now on the acceptance of one another and differences of opinion, subject to the condition that the law is respected by all. The democratic Algeria, which we want to consolidate, cannot be built on the exclusion of others or on a rigid view.

The movement of people between Algeria and Morocco:

Following the request by some political parties to be briefed about the problem that arose concerning the movement of people between Algeria and Morocco, the state president stated that the decisions taken by the Algerian government were based upon national sovereignty and understood by Morocco. These measures also respond to the unjustifiable treatment to which Algerian nationals were subjected—treatment that is neither in accordance with the bonds of the same fate that we seek for the Arab Maghreb, nor with the rules of good neighborliness and the principles of international law. He added that Algeria remains loyal to its Maghreban commitments and remains loyal to its policy of good neighborliness. The state president concluded: The Maghreban group and the Algerian-Moroccan links should be built on the basis of mutual respect and respect for the commitments undertaken within the bilateral or the Maghreban framework so that they will be strong and fruitful.

The resumption of the national dialogue:

Following the two meetings held yesterday, it was evident that the majority of the political parties were still stressing what they described as the necessary conditions for the success of the dialogue. Because one condition is the inclusion of the invited but still absent parties, they stressed that the state bears the sole responsibility for establishing the necessary conditions for the dialogue to succeed.

At this juncture the state president saw it necessary to fix an interim period before the next meeting which might allow the political parties time to consider the contribution he [Zeroual] had asked them to make within the framework of creating the conditions for the success of the dialogue. This would also allow the state time to continue its contacts with the dissolved party officials detained in Blida with the aim of clarifying their position.

The state and the political parties are making continuous efforts with the parties which were invited to the dialogue but are still absent with the aim of persuading them to join. In this context and upon the suggestion of the state president, agreement was reached that the next meeting within the framework of the dialogue will be held on Tuesday 20 September. It was also agreed that the 20 September meeting could be held earlier if in the meantime new and positive developments take place.

Liberation Front's Mehri on Madani Letter

MM0809104494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Qasiy Salih al-Darwish: "Mehri: Madani's Second Letter Urges Facilitating Front Leadership Meeting"]

[Excerpt] Paris—Reliable sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the declared aim of the postponement of Algerian dialogue meetings is to enable the regime to continue contacts with the invited parties that have not attended the meetings and the party that was not invited (the Salvation Front). While Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the Liberation Front party, has said that the dialogue has not begun yet, and that what has been discussed related to the conditions required for starting the dialogue.

Mehri added that the National Liberation Front has proposed a flexible formulation of its position represented in the demand for measures to allow the Salvation Front leadership to participate in this dialogue. He emphasized the Liberation Front's principled position, namely that the dialogue cannot take place without the presence of all the parties, that is including the Salvation Front. He said that there is agreement on the Salvation Front's participation. But the question remains: How?

Abdelhamid Mehri also confirmed what AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published three days ago, namely that Abassi Madani sent a second letter to President Zeroual. Mehri denied that the second letter was a backtracking or an annulment of what was mentioned in the first letter.

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He said that the content of the second letter is summed up in "freedom is a condition of responsibility," and that turning the content and proposals of the first letter into a position for the Salvation Front leadership requires enabling this leadership—whether those in prison, outside prison, or abroad—to meet freely.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from reliable sources that Abassi Madani's second letter was one handwritten page, in which he said that the proposals mentioned in his first letter were the personal interpretation of a prisoner, and that they cannot be considered a foundation for discussion before they are discussed and endorsed by the Salvation Front leadership as a whole. Madani also announced in his second letter his refusal to receive any official or intermediary as long as he and the other leadership members are still in prison. [passage omitted]

Government Institutes New Information Policy

LD0609005294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] A statement issued today by the Ministry of Communications says that within the framework of implementing more transparency in the running of public affairs and the dissemination of credible and continuous information to the public about the activities of the ministries, local authorities, and the government, Mokdad Sifi, the head of government, issued directives through the government council last Wednesday [31 August] to all ministries to take speedy measures in coordination with professionals of all information media.

In this respect the following has been decided:

1. To set up a communication cell constantly open to all journalists at the level of every ministry and province. In this respect the officials responsible for activating these cells will be appointed very shortly and given a fax and telephone. For their part, the information media must appoint a representative journalist to be included in the aforesaid communication cells.

2. Members of the government will hold two news conferences every week during the period from the beginning of September to the end of November 1994 to provide adequate explanations and details of the actions taken in that sector since the advent of the government, as well as the program of action in every sector that is expected to be completed by the second half of 1994, as stated in the program of the transitional period.

This new look in the field of communications, based on total transparency and public disclosure of everything taking place, will be seen by the citizen through the material presented by the information media, whether it is on the national dialogue, as the head of state had emphasized, or on the government activities. This will inform everyone of everything that is happening at the national scene and in the various domains. The process of installing these communications cells will be the foundation of this new and positive measure.

Death Toll in Civil Strife Reaches 10,000

LD0609215894 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] The official death toll in the Algerian civil strife, according to a communique from the Algerian presidency, has reached 10,000 as a result of the clashes between armed Islamic groups and the security forces since February 1992.

'Clarification' Demanded on French Expulsions

NC0609181494 Paris AFP in English 1311 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Algiers, Sept 6 (AFP)—Algeria has demanded "clarification" from France and Burkina Faso over the expulsion of some 20 suspected Islamic militants at the end of last month, the EL KHABAR daily said here Tuesday [6 September].

French and Algerian officials here refused to either confirm or deny the report. The Paris government expelled the 20 to the Burkinabe capital Ouagadougou on August 31.

EL KHABAR said the French and Burkinabe charges d'affaire had been summoned to the Algerian foreign ministry here to provide "clarification" of the expulsion.

It was not clear from the report exactly what sort of information the Algerians were seeking.

Out of the 20 people deported by France, for allegedly endangering French national security and being involved with Algerian fundamentalist groups, 19 are of Algerian nationality and one is Moroccan.

Burkina Faso said last month it had agreed to accept the deportees for strictly humanitarian reasons.

A French court Monday annulled the order authorising the deportation of one of the suspected fundamentalists.

The administrative court in Amiens, northern France, said Fathia Ressaf had demanded political asylum in France last November and that it was a "manifest error" to expel her from the country before a decision had been taken on whether or not she should be given asylum.

The report came as hopes were growing for an end to the undeclared civil war raging in Algeria after the country's military-backed government and opposition parties resumed talks here Monday.

The jailed president of the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Abassi Madani, has told President Liamine Zeroual that he wants to take part in the "dialogue" in a letter, sources in the president's office confirmed.

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Berber Group Boycotts Schools Over Language

LD0609214694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] The Berber Cultural Movement [MCB] has announced that it is boycotting the return to the new academic year. The head of the movement said that this boycott was decided because of the absence of the Berber language from syllabi and the failure to recognize Berber as an official national language. Over to Omer Zeidan.

[Zeidan] In this news conference given by Ferhat Mheni, the chairman of the Berber Cultural Movement, he stressed that the Berbers would boycott the return to school this year. Ferhat Mheni said that the movement had asked and was still asking for Berber to be introduced into the syllabus and to be recognized as an official national language.

On the preparations for this boycott, the head of the MCB said that the national liaison committee was in contact with numerous cultural associations, teachers' unions, and some activists. On the period of the boycott, he said that this was tied to the authorities' reaction to the movement's demands and that if there was no response the boycott of the new academic year could turn into a general strike in the economic and administrative sectors.

Berber Said Acceptable on 'Scientific' Basis

LD0709213394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Excerpts] At the premises of the Transitional National Council, the national education, higher education and scientific research, training and technology committee of the council had a meeting with Minister of National Education Amar Sakhri,. [passage omitted] Amar Sakhri today gave an interview to the daily EL WATAN in which he touched on a number of issues of concern in this sector. We look at some aspects of the interview with Haciba Houacine.

[Houacine] [passage omitted] On a question put to him about the call by the Berber Cultural Movement for a boycott of the beginning of the school year because Berber was not included in the syllabus, the minister of national education said that there is no problem in teaching the Berber language in schools if it is promoted on a scientific and educational basis. The minister said that the use of the Berber language must be for the benefit of our children and embody the goals of our society. Mr. Amar Sakhri stressed that the promotion of the Berber language is an important factor for our development. But he made it clear that this guaranteeing of our rich cultural heritage must take place without ulterior motives. The minister of education observed that if the demand for teaching Berber conceals political matters or if the problem is presented in a provocative and fanatical way, this will not lead to any solution. He said: The problem must be presented in a peaceful way and within an educational framework.

FIS Prisoners Reportedly Released

LD0709134394 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Algerian Islamists interned in security centers in the Sahara have been released these last few days. The news is not official, but it comes from the families of former detainees. According to human rights organizations, there were two centers still open, housing between 600 and 1,000 people in all. [passage omitted]

Stranded Moroccans Can Return by Ship, Other Means

LD0709195694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] A statement by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs announced that Algerian authorities have learned that some Moroccan citizens who entered Algeria as tourists or on family visits are still on the national territory.

The statement reminded all individuals of Moroccan nationality who are in the above-mentioned situation that with the exception of closures of land borders which were decided on Monday, 29 August, land, air and sea borders have remained open and can be used to return to Moroccan territory. A ship will also be operated from Oran on 9 September.

Ben Bella Reportedly Meets FIS Officials

LD0709123094 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1200 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] According to Switzerland's French radio service, former Algerian president [Ahmed] Ben Bella met with representatives of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in Geneva last night. It is believed that there have been contacts for two days now and Ben Bella is reported to be acting as a mediator on behalf of the incumbent Algerian Government. The civilian conflict in Algeria, which set the authorities and the Islamic fundamentalists in opposition, officially caused the death of 10,000 people since the beginning of 1992, and more than 500 schools have been destroyed.

Contacts Denied

LD0709134094 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Swiss French Radio reported just now that the former Algerian president, Ahmed Ben Bella, met representatives of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in a hotel in Geneva in Switzerland yesterday evening. We have just contacted the secretary general of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA], Mr. Ben Bella's party, in Algiers: Khaled Bensmail denies categorically that such a meeting took place. [passage omitted]

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Authorities Deny Mediation

LD0709212194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Some foreign newspapers have carried reports claiming that Ahmed Ben Bella, the former Algerian president [1962-65], is mediating between the state and representatives of the dissolved party [Islamic Salvation Front] abroad.

Following these reports we learned from authoritative sources that these allegations are groundless, and they have been categorically denied. The same sources said that the recent statements by the state president personally to the leaders of the political parties within the national dialogue are being fully respected and observed throughout all proceedings and phases of the dialogue. Thus the complete openness to which the state president committed himself in front of all the parties to the dialogue so as to inform public opinion about all the details of the dialogue, decisively proves that these allegations are aimed at hindering the dialogue.

During several of his statements and speeches in the course of the three rounds of dialogue, President Liamine Zeroual stressed before everybody that the state rejects any mediation between itself and the parties to the dialogue as well as any foreign interference. The Algerian crisis must be solved by Algerians, an element which the parties to the dialogue support. Paragraphs of the presidential statement issued yesterday were clear about this issue, and the state does not need foreign mediation or interference to solve its crisis. The state was the one which started the dialogue and called for it. It is still holding contacts with the parties which refused to attend the dialogue, and it encourages all the initiatives made by the political parties taking part in the national dialogue aimed at putting an end to the violence, finding a solution to the crisis, and restoring civil peace in our country in preparation for holding the elections and building the state's institutions on the basis of the people's choice.

Egypt

Mubarak on Foreign, Domestic Topics

JN0409104494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Sep 94 p 6

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Editor in Chief Jihad al-Khazin at the Burj al-'Arab resort near Alexandria on 1 September]

[Text] [Al-Khazin] You have recently shown great interest in Arab reconciliation. Are you optimistic? Is it true that Egypt and the United Arab Emirates are moving toward reconciliation with Iraq?

[Mubarak] I am an advocate of reconciliation and good relations among all states. I have for a while been raising this issue with many Arab states. However, the wound that Iraq has caused is deep. Iraq seized an entire state. Therefore, breaking barriers is not easy.

Regarding what has been rumored about messages to me from Iraq or about contacts between me and Iraq, I have no idea about this subject. Nobody has contacted me, nor have I contacted anybody. Perhaps what is intended here is to sow differences between us and some brothers, such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

When something of this kind takes place, it cannot be hidden, and I will not deny it if I am asked.

The story is well orchestrated. It emerged in Kuwait. Afterward, the Jordanian press said there was a message. I waited for the message, but there was no message or anything else. I talked with Shaykh Zayid (in Geneva) about Arab reunion in general. I had also raised the same topic with King Fahd.

[Al-Khazin] Is reconciliation with Iraq possible with President Saddam Husayn in power?

[Mubarak] The states concerned have no confidence in President Saddam Husayn. Frankly speaking, there is no confidence at all. Nobody believes him, including me. Before the Gulf war, I spoke to him and received pledges from him that he did not honor.

Egypt was boycotted for 10 years because it recovered its territory through a peace treaty. The boycott was led by Iraq. Egypt did not attack, occupy, and pillage another state. Yet, it was boycotted for 10 years. So, what about someone who occupied a state and displaced its people? He deported citizens, including Egyptians, some of whom were killed and sent home in coffins. Others did not receive their salaries.

This does not mean that I am calling for boycotting Iraq for 10 or 12 years. I sympathize with the Iraqi people and hope to see a solution to their issue. What have they done?

[Al-Khazin] Can we understand from what you have said that there is no solution with Saddam Husayn in power?

[Mubarak] It seems so to me. Nobody agrees to deal with him. They (the Gulf states) say that if I contact him or have a reconciliation with him, he will do it again, in a different way. I agree with them.

[Al-Khazin] Let us talk about other reconciliations. Do you envisage a possible reconciliation between Egypt and Sudan despite the recent rise of tension?

[Mubarak] We have done nothing. Regarding the recent campaign, I used to ask: Has anything happened on the border? Have we entered their territory as they are claiming? Nothing of this has taken place. Therefore, I do not understand this campaign at all. There have been more abuses. They are taking homes (from the Egyptians). If they have troubles at home, should they cause problems for us? I have read that they are saying an

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Egyptian plane crossed the border. Why should I cross the border? Even if this took place, they would not know about it because they have no alarm system. Do we need to cross the border? We have no planes that fly to them, and our airports are far away from the border. Reconnaissance aircraft are sent when I have information that there are forces that intend to attack my country. But this is out of the question between us and Sudan. So why shall I send planes?

There is no animosity between us and the Sudanese people at all. However, all sorts of abuse is heard every day, including of me personally. They say that President Mubarak has ordered the cutting of the power supply to the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo. Do I have nothing better to do than to think of cutting the power supply to the Sudanese Embassy? Those are silly charges. Perhaps they are thinking according to their own logic.

The Sudanese in Egypt are moving freely. Nobody is harassing them. Sudanese live and work here even without legal permission. No problem. But go and see the situation of the Egyptians there.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi told me that he will talk to Sudan to halt the media campaigns. I told him that we have halted the media campaigns. If we launch campaigns, it will be difficult for them to respond, because we will be heard throughout the world.

[Al-Khazin] Who is ruling Sudan?

[Mubarak] I told (Lieutenant General) al-Bashir (in Tunis) to listen to what public opinion is saying about this issue. Public opinion is saying that (Dr. Hasan) al-Turabi is manipulating al-Bashir. When I hear this being said about a head of state, I feel sad.

[Al-Khazin] Will Sudan's handing over of terrorist Carlos to France acquit Sudan of the charge of supporting terrorism?

[Mubarak] The deal was a little suspicious. It is yet not understood. There are still many terrorists in Sudan. They have training camps there. We told them this once, twice, and three times. I also said this to Lt. Gen. al-Bashir at the African summit.

Also, there are terrorists in Yemen, but the Yemenis deny this. The head of the state does not know everything. The Yemenis are in a very difficult situation.

[Al-Khazin] Following Egypt's support of the Palestinian stand on achieving self-rule, what is your assessment of the Palestinian behavior and Israeli performance?

[Mubarak] The process is not simple. They signed the Declaration of Principles and the self-rule accord. However, they will face many difficulties and obstacles. We must endure this and insist on continuing with the process. Had they listened to Anwar al-Sadat in Camp David, three-quarters of the difficulties would have gone away. There was an agreement in accordance with which the Israelis would have withdrawn to a line outside the West Bank and Gaza. At that time, there were 48 settlements, but now there are 180 large settlements. We must proceed with this decisive battle. We must support them. We speak with Israel. They will have problems, but we must proceed so the land will return to its owners.

[Al-Khazin] The PLO is still having difficulty in obtaining aid from the donor states. Have you exerted efforts in this regard?

[Mubarak] I believe these states have begun to understand the situation. I spoke with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and money began to flow. The donor states have their own way of giving money. They want to know where the money is spent; they want documents. We talked with them in order to pay Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

[Al-Khazin] Egypt's stand vis-a-vis the Jordanian-Israeli accord seems different from its stand vis-a-vis the Palestinian-Israeli accord. What is your assessment of what Jordan has done?

[Mubarak] There is no major problem between Jordan and Israel. Negotiations between the two sides have been going on unofficially for a long time. I do not see any major problem. The problem is the Palestinian issue. Jordan has resolved most issues, King Husayn crossed Israeli airspace, agreements were written, and banks will open. I queried Rabin before the agreement with Jordan. He said: There are no problems between the two parties.

The problem is the Palestinian issue and the withdrawal from the Golan.

[Al-Khazin] What is your stand on Jerusalem?

[Mubarak] There has been much talk about Jerusalem. King Husayn said he is interested in the Islamic holy places. The agreement with the Palestinians is that Jerusalem is Palestinian land that will be discussed in the last stage of the talks.

[Al-Khazin] It seems, however, that the difference over Jerusalem is a Palestinian-Jordanian one, more than it is a difference with Israel.

[Mubarak] I agree that it is a Palestinian-Jordanian disagreement. This problem must not be raised now. It should be left to the end. I am afraid that we, the Arabs, will differ with each other while Israel will be sitting there to watch.

[Al-Khazin] Do you have a personal position on Jerusalem?

[Mubarak] I do not want to announce a stand in advance; I will leave the matter to the negotiators from all parties. When Menachem Begin declared Jerusalem the eternal capital of Israel, Anwar al-Sadat sent to them, at the end of August, as I remember, the most strongly worded message. Al-Sadat said he would not go to Jerusalem. When they invited him he travelled on board a ship to Haifa so as not to land in Jerusalem. The

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Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem must be under an Islamic religious authority. As you said, the problem will be between the Palestinians and Jordanians. The features of Jerusalem have changed. We take into consideration the importance of the Christian, Islamic, and Jewish holy places, as well as the social and geographical changes.

[Al-Khazin] Why are steps to normalization between Jordan and Israel accelerating in contrast to the steps between Egypt and Israel?

[Mubarak] Each has its own circumstances. In Jordan, they have had contacts with Israel for a long time. Normalization is not a problem. There were secret contacts. In fact, they were public contacts, but they say these contacts were secret. Shim'on Peres met with King Husayn in London, and then Rabin met with the king.

[Al-Khazin] Do you still expect a breakthrough in the Syrian-Israeli talks before the end of the year?

[Mubarak] I still expect this. I hope they will reach something before the end of year; it could be one or two months later. I sincerely hope the Syrian problem will be resolved. Syria is a basic pillar in the issue of peace. We support Syria in this regard.

[Al-Khazin] How do you help Syria to surmount obstacles?

[Mubarak] We can talk with all parties. We talk with the Israelis about this issue, even without being asked by the Syrians to do so. Of course, this is because we understand each other. We exerted great efforts to enable them to attend the Madrid conference. I believe Israel does not want to keep one inch of the Golan Heights, but it wants to make sure that there will be relations and normalization, especially since it believes this guarantees peace. The issue was a crisis of confidence between the two sides. Progress is slow, but, God willing, they will reach a solution.

[Al-Khazin] Does the slow progress on the Syrian-Israeli front affect the solution with Lebanon?

[Mubarak] Slowness is useful for both peoples in Syria and Israel. Each side will be accustomed to the situation and accept future developments. The Israeli people will not leave the Golan easily. They want to see peace. The Syrian people should also get used to peace and to the fact that Israel is a neighboring state. You cannot just press a button and say I want to establish relations with Israel. The process is difficult for both parties.

Regarding Lebanon, I believe Israel spoke about Lebanon and proposed to withdraw within a certain period of time when the Lebanese Army will be able to impose its control on the opposition parties, such as Hizballah and other parties. If Lebanon is able to do this, then Israel, as I heard, will be ready to withdraw from southern Lebanon. However, I believe this will be linked with progress on the Syrian track.

[Al-Khazin] In an interview with an AL-HAYAH correspondent in Jerusalem, Rabin proposed withdrawal within nine months, but he also said the Lebanese situation is linked with Syria. Does Lebanon benefit from linking its situation with negotiations between Syria and Israel?

[Mubarak] It is said the Lebanese have agreed with our Syrian brothers to make the two tracks proceed together. I do not want to comment further on the issue of Syria and Lebanon.

[Al-Khazin] Why was normalization between Egypt and Israel not reactivated following the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Mubarak] This process will take a long time, because this is the nature of peoples. Hatred, wars, and occupation have continued for 40 years. We cannot persuade the Arab citizen to adapt to the situation quickly. However, the situation now is better than before.

[Al-Khazin] There is the controversial issue of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. At the multilateral talks, Egypt and other Arab states linked the elimination of chemical weapons with Israel's signing of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons. What are the latest developments in this issue?

[Mubarak] We still adhere to our stand. Our region must be free of weapons of mass destruction. We do not have chemical weapons. We do not want to be involved in nuclear weapons. However, this must include all parties. Israel says no, only when peace is achieved. The Israelis say they cannot guarantee Iran or Iraq. At the same time, we cannot sign an agreement on chemical weapons and leave the nuclear issue unresolved. There is peace between us and Israel, but it must be on equal footing. We insist on this.

[Al-Khazin] It seems the atmosphere of Egyptian-Iranian relations is currently calm. Are there contacts between you and Iran? Do you expect the relations to improve?

[Mubarak] I would like to have good and firm relations with all world states, because this is the only means of development and cooperation. Iran is an Islamic state. However, it once attacked us, some times it has slandered the Camp David Accords, and some other times it has said it wanted to liberate Jerusalem. I say anyone who wants to liberate Jerusalem should go and liberate it. Do you want me to liberate it for you? One day they said they wanted to restore relations, then they said they wanted to establish cultural relations. I do not like these fluctuating stands. Now, there is calm. I hope it will continue to allow each party to reconsider his stands. I hope Iran's relations with neighboring states will be very good. I hope Iran will establish good relations with the Gulf states, and stop its threats and terrorism, because these are doomed to failure.

[Al-Khazin] How do you assess relations with Yemen after the recent problems there?

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[Mubarak] There is no problem in our relations with Yemen. However, I say that there are many terrorist groups, and that there are Arab Afghans. The Yemeni president may not know, but we have confirmed information.

[Al-Khazin] Are there contacts with the Yemeni Government?

[Mubarak] Sometimes the Yemeni president speaks to me. Sometimes I speak to him.

[Al-Khazin] Regarding the southerners, are you hosting any of the leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party who left Aden?

[Mubarak] Egypt is open for everyone. However, none of the YSP leaders came to us. But there are Yemenis who have been living here for a long time. This may include some YSP members. It is over now. There are no socialists. We insisted that 'Ali Salim al-Bid not declare secession, and that the country remain united with everyone's approval. We were ready to narrow the gap between the two sides.

[Al-Khazin] Your firm anti-terrorism policy has been successful. There has been a decline in terrorist attacks in Egypt. However, we have noticed that other Islamic forces, which are not considered terrorist groups, have recently waged battles against the state, especially regarding veils at schools and the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD]. Earlier, there was a confrontation with the Bar Association. Is there a linkage between the confrontation with terrorism and those groups?

[Mubarak] All the groups are the same. We have been holding a dialogue with them since 1980—since the days of President al-Sadat. There was a dialogue in 1981. It continued until they began to use violence. We said that is unacceptable. We began to confront this by the law.

The veil is a phenomenon which takes time. We are not against the veil. If a woman wants to put on a veil, she can do so; if not, she should be forced to. [sentence as published] It is unacceptable to impose the veil by force, especially after the education minister's decision that female students should get their parents approval to wear veils. But it is unacceptable that violence be used to impose something by force.

[Al-Khazin] The Muslim Brotherhood group is banned under law. However, it is carrying out public activity. Recently, statements were issued bearing the Muslim Brotherhood signature. What is your position?

[Mubarak] When a banned group is caught issuing statements, we do not remain indifferent. We work in accordance with the law. We are very alert. We know about all activities. Egypt's stability must be maintained. No group, no matter how able it is, will ever be able to threaten order in Egypt. This is impossible, even if those groups have foreign contacts and are supported by other states. This is an issue that I strongly emphasize. We have the ability to do what should be done.

[Al-Khazin] Some Western forces have suggested that a dialogue be held with the Muslim Brotherhood. Is it possible to hold a dialogue with a dissolved group?

[Mubarak] No, no. We tell them they must not violate the system of government. We have nothing called the Muslim Brotherhood group. It is banned. Any action done by it is banned.

[Al-Khazin] If a party wants to talk to them, is this possible?

[Mubarak] They are free to do so. I am watching. They should not think that we are asleep.

[Al-Khazin] Let us move to the topic of the hour—the ICPD. It is in the focus of the spotlight. However, there is an increasing boycott of it. What do you think of the attitudes toward it?

[Mubarak] It was decided to hold the ICPD in Egypt following efforts that lasted three years. As far as I remember, many Islamic and Western states tried to host the conference. Had it been decided to hold the conference in any venue other than Egypt, it would not have been attacked. What I want to ask is this: Why all this hubbub now? We have not called for the conference; we are only hosting it. It is an international conference organized by the United Nations. Not attending it does not constitute an insult to Egypt. The United Nations estimates that 20-30 states usually do not attend any of its conferences. This is no problem. What I want to say is that if some articles in the proposed document are controversial and can be interpreted in different ways, is it not better for the Islamic nation to send representatives and to oppose any interpretation that may violate religion and Islamic law? If they attend, they will become a major force that will say no to whatever they deem an unacceptable violation of religion. Then, the whole world will hear that Muslims are against it, just like Christians and Jews.

If we do not attend we will be the losers. So far, 154 out of 198 countries will attend. We can stand firmly against and oppose any clause contrary to Islamic law, even if the violation is very minor. We hoped all Islamic countries will come and express their opinion. It will not be easy to adopt an interpretation that is not opposed by some countries. Nine technical meetings prepared for the conference; five geographical meetings, which were attended by representatives of all countries, were then held; and then three preparatory meetings were held, the last of which was held in April. The agenda was announced, but nobody said anything.

The Vatican announced its opposition. Then, we began to read that the agenda deals with homosexuality and abortion. However, nobody can force me to do something contrary to Islamic law. This will be an opportunity

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to stand in the international arena to explain the teachings of Islamic law and the Holy Koran in order to prove to the world that Muslims are not terrorists and that their religion is a religion of forgiveness, love, and freedom.

Do not say to me: Fear God. I say: You are the one who should fear God. Come and explain your opinion frankly. The revolution in communications will convey what you say throughout the world and people will recognize the tolerance of Islam.

This is the opportunity of a lifetime to explain to the world the reality of Islam, with quiet logic.

[Al-Khazin] The reasons for the religious opposition to the ICPD document are well known. Are there other reasons?

[Mubarak] Some countries have their own circumstances and cannot attend. I say, however: Come and explain your cause. Say that this is wrong because the Koran says so and so, Islamic law says so and so, and the prophet's teachings say so and so. Islam gives woman rights better than any other religion. Take this opportunity and propagate your religion throughout the world.

[Al-Khazin] The National Conference recommended the return to elections by list. There is controversy in the country about this issue. Will this method be followed in the next parliamentary elections?

[Mubarak] I heard the dialogue. There are points which are in the interest of the country and we are studying them. Regarding the elections by list and as individuals, I listen to all opinions regarding this and I will not make a decision before seven or eight months. Personally, I have not made a decision regarding this issue. I have no personal interest. I seek the public interest and I want to see that the people are properly represented.

[Al-Khazin] The stand of the political forces that opposed the conference raises this question: After 18 years of party life, why could Egypt not achieve commitment on the part of political parties to participate in national issues?

[Mubarak] They are free. Those who withdraw can withdraw. Negativity is one of our big faults. As long as I am negative I will not gain.

What would have happened if all of them had attended the conference? If they want to say no, they can come and say no.

I will be very sad to see a major party not attending and not participating in such a conference. Come to this conference and express your opinion. I will not arrest you. Express your opinion and enlighten us. Tell us why you have adopted this opinion so that all of us will understand.

We did not enter the dialogue with prepared thought. I asked the National Party not to declare its opinion regarding the preparation for dialogue.

We want to hear the opinion of everybody. Who supports elections by list or as individuals? First, I am not a supporter of this or that. I want to decide what is best for the representation of the people. This is my objective, and I do not seek anything else. I fear nobody as long as I am on the side of right and the law.

[Al-Khazin] Is it possible to hold early parliamentary elections in Egypt?

[Mubarak] I have not decided anything yet. In general, we will hear a lot of rumors in the coming period.

Egypt's season of rumors begins in September when you will see people speaking about cabinet reshuffle. I do not know why their activities are not high this year.

Sudan

Kenyan Foreign Minister on Visit

Meets al-Bashir

EA0409203494 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has reiterated Sudan's confidence in the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] countries' initiative toward bringing peace to the south. He said this today when he met at his office in the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers the Kenyan foreign minister who is currently visiting the country. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stressed the importance of finding a new and more effective mechanism for negotiations which could relate to the agreements already reached between the government and the rebels. His excellency reiterated Sudan's commitment to the cease-fire, but pointed out the continuing violations by the rebels. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir received a message from Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi. Al-Bashir praised his role and interest in the progress of peace in the country.

Holds Talks With TNA Speaker

EA0409153494 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, the speaker of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] and head of the government delegation to the peace talks, has expressed hope that the new mechanism proposed by the Sudanese Government would give impetus to the peace process in the country.

His excellency reiterated the government's commitment to the initiative of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development states to establish peace in the south.

This came during a meeting he held today at his office in the TNA with the Kenyan foreign minister who is currently visiting Khartoum.

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The Kenyan official announced that he would convey Sudan's views concerning a press statement issued at the end of the recent Nairobi talks, to officials in his country, so that it would be considered in the next round of talks.

Minister Outlines Framework for Peace Talks

EA0609175394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has announced that the new mechanism proposed by the government within the context of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] initiative to establish peace in the country has two aims: first, the appointment of separate representatives to each of the presidents of the IGADD states so that meetings can continue between all the sides and, second, the establishment of a separate secretariat to execute the peace process as expeditiously as possible. Speaking from the forum of the Foreign Ministry today, Dr. Abu-Salih said the government delegation to the talks with the rebel movement would seek to finalize the means of establishing this mechanism and putting the final touches on its modus operandi.

Dr. Abu-Salih said the British parliamentary delegation currently visiting the country had come to acquaint themselves with the facts of the situation in the country and also to promote relations between Khartoum and London. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Discusses Problems With Egypt, South

NC0809120294 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 5 Sep 94 p 9

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, president of the Republic, by Nur-al-Huda Zaki in Tripoli, on the sidelines of Libya's 1 September revolution celebrations; date not given]

[Text] [Zaki] Do you expect positive developments to follow the decision to stop the media campaigns?

[Al-Bashir] Yes. We must take steps to help the atmosphere because if we do not take such steps there will be no value in stopping the media campaigns.

[Zaki] Could we expect your plane to land in Cairo or could we expect President Mubarak's plane to land in Khartoum?

[Al-Bashir] This is what I have done before. I visited Cairo and we agreed to form a committee involving the two countries' foreign ministers to solve the problems. Our foreign minister arrived in Cairo and held a first session. We are still waiting for the second round, which the Egyptian foreign minister will attend. After meeting President Mubarak we thought that merely by accepting mediation efforts proposed by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the differences between us would be resolved. But we did not find the appropriate response or the level of forgiveness that Sudan demonstrated. Egypt cannot do without Sudan and Sudan cannot do without Egypt. We need to normalize relations because both of us realize Israel's designs on the area and Israel's strategic objectives. We all know the plans for Greater Israel and its strategic objectives and are trying hard to restore things to their normal course.

[Zaki] Regarding the Carlos issue and the extradition deal, what is the story from your side?

[Al-Bashir] First, we in Sudan, individuals and organizations, did not know about Carlos. We did not expect Carlos to surface in Khartoum. But Carlos entered Khartoum in August last year on an Arab diplomatic passport. Of course, as you very well know, any person who bears an Arab passport can enter Sudan without a visa, like any other Arab citizen. Two months later it became evident that he wanted to live in Khartoum. He rented a flat and bought a car. The security departments started to get suspicious about this man, who carries a diplomatic passport yet wants to live in the country. The Security Department also noticed that he did not contact the embassy of the country the passport of which he carries. And he was involved in a brawl with a Sudanese citizen; word of the problem reached the police station. After initial investigations at the police station, suspicions started mounting regarding his identity. The main suspicion was that he was Carlos. His activities centered around the big clubs and hotels in Khartoum, all of which have strict security measures. When the security authorities asked this man to leave Sudan because he was a persona non grata, he started stalling, at which point the French authorities contacted us in May to ask us to hand him over. They exchanged documents, information, and pictures with the Sudanese departments, which confirmed our suspicions that he was Carlos. The government did not respond to the French demand. They contacted the person concerned and asked him to leave Sudan for any destination. After a long period of stalling the man refused to leave, claiming he had nowhere to go. When we received the French interior minister's request containing all the documents proving the accusations and crimes this man committed, we decided to hand him over to the French authorities. The objective was not a deal or a bid to get some loans. What we did had a positive effect on improving Sudanese-French relations and on cooperation with the French authorities.

[Zaki] The Nairobi talks on peace in southern Sudan resume today. During last July's talks there was an argument about two basic issues, namely, self-determination for the southerners and the relations between religion and the state in Sudan. What is new?

[Al-Bashir] The southern Sudan issue is an old one. It is a story of plots against the Arab homeland, the aim of which is to slice off part of this homeland and deprive it of secure food resources. Only Sudan can provide itself with food, and therefore their aim is to deprive the homeland of this rich soil and this source of food. We talked a lot in Nairobi and Abuja about reaching peace, but it was clear that the rebel movement does not want

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peace. An action program was agreed on after several rounds of talks. The program was based on recommendations to apply federal rule in Sudan on the theory that not sharing power is the cause of the problem of the south. All the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] leaders became convinced of the government's program or part of it, and of the government's seriousness when it responded to the program's proposals. But differences erupted between the delegation's leaders and the SPLM leaders. All those who led delegations to the negotiations are now fighting John Garang, be it Ilam Akol or William Nun. It emerged that the delegations' leaders were not given the right to form an action program with the government. We still insist that a solution should be reached through peaceful negotiations despite the victories we have scored in a number of places. We are still committed to peaceful negotiations. We support the International Fund for Agricultural Development's initiative and hope to reach a solution during the next rounds of talks.

[Zaki] A solution or a decision?

[Al-Bashir] A solution of course, because the war in the south is a guerrilla war and we cannot talk about deciding such a war, which abates in one place only to erupt somewhere else.

[Zaki] Sorry, but our question was about deciding the issue of self-determination and the role of religion and the state in Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] The talks did in fact deal with the issue of self-determination at the last round. We will not negotiate over self-determination in the south of a unified Sudan. As for secular Sudan, we will not abandon our cultural program. We regard any talk about secularism as an insult to Islam. Even countries that speak about secularism are not secular. Ninety percent of Western countries follow the sign of the cross, and their parties have names such as Christian Socialists or Christian Democrats. Even their laws are derived from Christianity. The religious tolerance that exists in Sudan or in any Muslim country does not exist in the United States or Europe. When it comes to dealing with non-Muslims, Sunday is a day off so that Christians can go to church. Those who follow African religions have the right to practice all their rites and traditions, even those that conflict with Islam or Christianity.

[Zaki] U.S. envoy Melissa Wells visited Sudan recently. Did her mission include the peace talks and the issues of self-determination and religion?

[Al-Bashir] The U.S. envoy's mission was to help the peace talks. It also concerned the relief program. It had nothing to do with other issues or even with Sudanese-U.S. relations. She was the U.S. President's envoy and spoke about the peace talks and the relief efforts. She believes that the signing of an agreement on relief and the continuation of the talks might influence relations with the United States.

[Zaki] The West continues to accuse you of supporting terrorism. What do you have to say about that?

[Al-Bashir] The terrorism issue in fact results from Zionist propaganda aimed at accusing the Arabs and Muslims of this practice. Unfortunately, this is accepted by some Arab circles, who parrot this expression and link it to Islam and fundamentalism. Besides being the modern version of Crusader propaganda as renewed by Zionism, this issue is one of the tools in the hostile campaign to subjugate any regime that does not submit to Western influence and the new world order. Whenever the West agrees to fight against or strike at somebody, it has to find an excuse and therefore resorts to the umbrella charge of terrorism or hostility to human rights. These have become ready-made justifications for striking at regimes that do not follow the new world order.

[Zaki] There are persistent accusations that Sudan is harboring "terrorist" elements and training them in camps on its territory.

[Al-Bashir] These are false rumors. We defy anyone to show us any such camp in Sudan. Sudan is an open country and anyone who wishes to investigate to see if such camps exist can do so. After five years, how is it possible that no one has graduated from these camps if they really exist?

[Zaki] How far have your relations with Britain deteriorated in the wake of the British ambassador's expulsion?

[Al-Bashir] We warned the British ambassador about his behavior. He was leading an antigovernment campaign in Khartoum, refused to attend government functions, and spoke negatively about the government. We informed London that its ambassador was no longer acceptable. His reports to London used to say that the Sudanese Government could not expel him because no developing country had ever expelled a British ambassador. That is why his expulsion came as a surprise to London. They told us we had to rescind the expulsion order but did not say they were going to question their ambassador or investigate the affair. Relations have been bad ever since.

[Zaki] You met with Algerian President Zeroual in the [Libyan] Jamahiriyah. Did you discuss the faltering ties between Khartoum and Algiers?

[Al-Bashir] What formerly appeared to be mutual accusations turned out to be misleading reports. We agreed with Zeroual to keep channels of contact open to exchange information and envoys and make sure that no actions harmful to the two countries' security were taking place. We agreed that that meeting should be the end of any problem between Sudan and Algeria.

[Zaki] This is a question about the political situation inside Sudan. Do you see any likelihood of conducting a national dialogue at this time?

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[Al-Bashir] Let met say frankly that the public has gotten over the political party phenomenon, though some party leaders, who no longer have any privileges, still speak on behalf of those parties. Actually, political parties do not exist any more. Sudan is open to any Sudanese who wishes to return and participate in rebuilding the country. No one will be isolated or banned from participating in this effort. Our national project, which is still in the basic stage, depends on conferences. Any Sudanese citizen over 18 can become a member of these conferences. Although the leaders of some former political parties are still around, the political parties have been dissolved by law. We call on those leaders, regardless of how regrettable their past, to return. We will forgive them and pardon their dealings with Sudan's enemies. You know, they hold seminars in Britain, Germany, and the United States, and the most notable recommendations of those seminars involve calling on foreign countries to intervene in Sudan. They beg for foreign intervention. Still we are giving them an opportunity to repent and return.

[Zaki] What is Hasan al-Turabi's status in the new political order in Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] Al-Turabi is a Sudanese citizen. He is a Muslim intellectual not merely on the national level but also on the international level. He was placed in custody when the revolution occurred, like the leaders of the other political parties, and he remained in detention for a long time. He was set free after the release of [Democratic Unionist Party leader] Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani. He took no action against the Salvation Revolution and became one of its supporters. Many members of his National Islamic Front joined the government, but he himself has no official post or any direct influence on decisionmaking. He might have some influence through his followers who are in the government. Our political system does not ban participation in the government by any Sudanese citizen.

Government Refuses To Discuss Southern Autonomy

EA0709161794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has confirmed the government's seriousness about efforts to reach peace in the south. During his meeting today with leading members of the media and press, his excellency added that there was no room for discussion on what the rebellion called the right of self-determination and secularism because these two matters had been settled as a result of the rallying of the Sudanese around the country's civilization orientation and national unity. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the government's delegation to the current peace negotiations in Nairobi would concentrate on the mechanism on which the negotiations were to be based.

At his regular meeting with the leading members of the media and press, his excellency touched on the dispute over the Hala'ib triangle. He said the Egyptian regime, through its recent acts of aggression against the area, was endeavoring to impose a fait accompli by spreading its control over Hala'ib gradually. He said: We, in Sudan, still exercised self-control and refused to react to provocation, while at the same time preserving the substantiation of Sudan's right in the Hala'ib area. [passage omitted]

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Kuwait

Authorities Arrest 2 Iraqi 'Infiltrators'

NC0709170694 Paris AFP in English 1506 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Kuwait City, Sept 7 (AFP)—The Kuwaiti authorities have arrested two Iraqi infiltrators who planned to carry out attacks in the emirate, the interior ministry said Wednesday [7 September].

A ministry spokesman told AFP the two had admitted they were agents of the Iraqi intelligence services and planned to launch attacks in Kuwait. He did not specify when they were arrested.

The newspaper AL-WATAN said four Iraqis were detained on Tuesday [6 September] after crossing the border.

In June, a Kuwaiti court sentenced to death five Iraqis and a Kuwaiti for planning to assassinate former US president George Bush during a visit to the emirate in April 1993.

Oman

Writer Views Islamic Opposition in Gulf Area

NC0709112594 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Sep 94 p 8

[Report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah—punctuation as published]

[Text] The recent announcement of the discovery of a fundamentalist network or organization in the Sultanate of Oman which, according to the authorities, sought to overthrow the regime, has raised questions about the existence of active Islamic movements in Oman and all the Gulf states. Perhaps the reason for the surprise is that the announcement has demonstrated that there are opposition movements working inside these countries, contrary to earlier belief that most opposition movements, particularly Islamic, in the Gulf states were operating from abroad, specifically from the British capital.

The sketchy information available indicates that the Omani authorities have arrested between 200 and 600 of the organization's members, including military officials, businessmen, and civil servants, including 70 members of the Muslim Brotherhood. The members include some Sudanese and two Egyptians, and one of them is Dr. Ahmad Baha', a lecturer at Alexandria University. The authorities later released 100 persons after questioning them on the grounds that had not been aware of the real conspiratorial goals of the organization. It has also been announced that millions of dollars were seized by security men. Reports indicate that this is the first truly organized Islamic group to be uncovered in Oman since the leftist rebellion [in the seventies].

AL-SHA'B has learned that the uncovered organization is neither Shiite nor from the Muslim Brotherhood. Its members are reform-seekers who demand political reforms in the Sultanate prohibiting the traditional religious establishment from playing any role in the political process while at the same time stressing Islam as the state's general term of reference. It is clear that there is a blackout on the whole matter. The Omani Interior Ministry's statement in this regard did not go beyond other routine statements announcing the discovery of a fundamentalist organization seeking to overthrow the regime. There is a possibility that no specific organization exists, but rather that there are scattered individuals from the Islamic current. However, the mere mention of an 'organization' suggests the increasing activity of this current.

The activity of the opposition, particularly the Islamic opposition—which is mostly reform-minded and not violent, something that refutes the accusation of seeking to overthrow the regime by force—is not confined to Oman or even Saudi Arabia, in which reports indicate that there are 8,000 detainees, but extends to Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar. Some Saudi Islamic oppositionists succeeded in establishing organizations for human rights, counsel, and reform in London two years ago, such as the Committee for the Defense of the Shari'ah Rights, which is led by 'Abdallah al-Mas'ari; and the Counsel and Reform Organization, which is led by Usamah Bin-Ladin, whom the Saudi Government stripped of his nationality recently. The two organizations publish periodicals that include advice to the rulers and reports on some excesses against citizens. As for Bahrain, which has four opposition movements operating from abroad, the situation is worse. The Constitution is suspended and the Shura Council elected in the seventies has been canceled and replaced by a substitute council. The Bahraini security authorities follow Western-minded policies of expelling oppositionists abroad, in violation of the Constitution. So far, 30 Bahraini citizens have been expelled.

There is a strong sense of religion in Bahrain which combines Sunnis and Shiites in a strong bond. There is also increased attendance in mosques, to such an extent that even some mosque preachers have started to touch on sensitive issues such as the abrogation of the Constitution, freedoms, and unemployment, despite the government's harassment. There are two Islamic movements (one Sunni and the other Shiite) among the four opposition movements abroad. These are the Islamic Freemen of Bahrain Movement (Shiite), the Islamic Front (Sunni), the Popular Front, and the Liberation Front. The last two are left-wing organizations. The Bahraini Government's resort to British security experts, their appointment at the head of the local intelligence service (such as General Ian Henderson), and the dissolution of the National Assembly (the parliament) in 1975—because it opposed the state security law that allowed the detention of individuals up to (three) years—increased the opposition's demand for political

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reform, especially as the Bahraini Government announced on several occasions that (democracy is not compatible with our traditions), that democracy and elections will bring (fundamentalist Islamists) and the Salafis to parliament, and repeat the Algerian experience in Bahrain, and therefore there is no need to have elections. What also increases the strength of the opposition in Bahrain is the fact that there is an alliance between the four opposition forces that have on several occasions called on the authority to seek the help of 'ulemas and notable figures, especially at times of crisis, such as the dispute with Qatar over the (Fasht al-Dibal) islands.

It is noted that most of the arrests carried out among the Islamic trend's 'ulemas and shaykhs involved the Shiites, most of whom travel frequently to Iran, and this worries the Bahraini authorities. But there are arrests among Sunni 'ulemas too, such as Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Amir al-Jamri and others. Dozens of arrests and deportations could be enumerated. The UN Human Rights Committee even included Bahrain among the countries subjected to the Committee's control, and control was imposed in February 1992. But it then lifted the control in March 1993 following a U.S. request. It was noted that human rights improved much during the one year of UN control. The authorities allowed 120 deportees to return as part of a general amiri amnesty, collective arrests were stopped, periods of detention were reduced, and the appointed parliament was allowed to resume its work in January 1993. The opposition hopes that the authorities will expand freedoms, restore the Constitution, and dispense with the services of the British security experts whose harsh security reports are only increasing the hostility between the government and the opposition.

It is clear that most of these developments and the revival of the Islamic awakening in the Gulf became more evident following the Gulf war, the increased U.S. influence in the Gulf states, and the imposition of Western behavior and the materialistic U.S. way of life. It has become normal to see Americans, British, and French move about freely in the Gulf states spreading their bad habits among the conservative Gulf peoples under what is almost a semi-occupation on the pretext of protecting the Gulf states. This has only increased the Islamic opposition and voices have started to be raised demanding the departure of these foreign forces. The revival of the Islamic movements was natural amid all these developments and this only increased the governments' fear of fundamentalism—as the West is propagating—and thus for the clashes to begin.

Yemen

President on New Government, Ties With Egypt

NC0809065294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has denied that there are camps or centers on Yemeni territory to train extremists, noting that some of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leaders wanted to sow sedition between Egypt and Yemen by spreading these claims.

In an interview published today by AL-JUMHURIYAH, Salih said that only a few dozen Yemenis went to Afghanistan and they pose no real danger now. He stressed that his country's objectives before and after the victory of unity remain peace, stability, and tranquility for everyone.

President Salih said the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] is the ally of the General People's Congress [GPC], which he leads, and that there were will be no battles or confrontations between the two parties. He noted that reports about such developments are no more than tendentious propaganda spread by what he called the YSP's fifth column, aiming to create confusion. He accused the YSP leaders who led the secessionist movement of receiving $4 billion to stage that rebellion and destroy Yemeni unity and legitimacy.

President Salih called on the YSP leaders who are still in Yemen to rectify the party position and define a place for it on the political map, referring in this regard to his meeting with the YSP's parliamentary group and his declaration that the state is ready to back and help rebuild the YSP on the basis of severing ties with the former leadership.

The Yemeni president went on to say that measures must be taken before forming the new government, noting that he will head the new government at this important stage, which requires one harmonious team that will reorganize the country.

President Salih said each party will get its dues in accordance with the Constitution and law and with its representation in parliament. He added that the GPC has most seats in parliament followed by the YRG. He said that the nature of Yemeni society, the role of the democratic and mass establishments, and the coming need for technocrats and specialists among independent and public figures must be considered when the new government is formed. He explained that there are particular constitutional amendments that must be completed and agreed on by all the political forces participating in rule before submitting them to parliament for ratification.

He stressed that the YSP will not be included in the new government or any of the authority's formations as a party because it was defeated and cannot enter the government or exercise political action before it reorganizes its position on the basis that it is a civilian party, like the GPC and YRG, that does not depend on military force or a militia.

President Salih praised the historic ties between the Yemeni and Egyptian leaders and peoples, stressing that Egypt will retain its unique position in Yemen and the

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close, deep relationship between him and President Husni Mubarak will remain regardless of any disputes or differences of opinion. He stressed the importance of the Egyptian role supporting Yemen until the imam's rule ended and Yemen obtained its independence with the help of Egypt's heroic soldiers. He said: This role was renewed during the secession crisis throughout which envoys travelled back and forward between Cairo and Sanaa.

Regarding his visit to Egypt, he said he will visit as soon as President Mubarak invites him, noting that Egypt and the Egyptian people have a special place in the Yemeni people's hearts.

On Yemen's relations with Saudi Arabia, President Salih said his country is ready to open a new chapter with Saudi Arabia and close the files of the past, which brought many troubles to both sides. But, he added, this new relationship should be governed by principles.

He said the United States supported the state's unity during the secession because that unity was established on democratic bases and because Yemen declared in its political program on unity its commitment to democracy based on party plurality. He added: The United States had no choice but to support this experiment in its capacity as the sponsor of democracy. There were also the joint U.S.-Yemeni oil interests that began with the discovery of oil in Ma'rib in 1986.

On regulating the possession of arms in Yemen, President Salih said he is now about to implement the law that regulates the right to own and carry arms. He noted that heavy weapons are being collected from the tribes. He added that rewards will be paid to anyone who hands over these weapons to the state, because these weapons include Scud missiles, tanks, and other weapons left behind by the secessionist forces following their defeat.

Security Forces Arrest Armed Extremists in Mountains

LD0709214794 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Security sources in Aden said tonight that Yemeni security forces last night arrested armed extremists who had fled to the mountains following clashes with Yemeni security forces in the Crater region last Saturday [3 September].

Yemeni security sources said that security forces conducted extensive combing operations in the Aden mountains in the past few hours, chasing elements of one of the extremist organizations. The sources said that most of those who had fled surrendered to the security forces after sporadic clashes.

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Progress Reported on Geneva Talks With Kuwait

JN0709181494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Regarding the fate of the missing Kuwaitis in the Gulf war, it has been learned that progress was achieved in the talks held yesterday at the Geneva headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi delegations.

Diplomatic sources said that Baghdad admitted, during the talks, that it captured 45 Kuwaitis. However, Baghdad said that they disappeared as a result of the rebellion in southern Iraq.

Kuwait says that 609 Kuwaitis who were kidnapped at the end of the Gulf war, are still being held in Iraq.

Ramadan Confers With Yemeni Delegation

JN0409140194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has received a delegation of the Yemeni House of Representatives headed by Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, deputy speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives and chairman of the House' Foreign Relations Committee, who is currently visiting Iraq.

Taha Yasin Ramadan termed the triumph of unity advocates over the secessionists in fraternal Yemen as a triumph for the will of the Yemeni people, who defended unity in all their cities. He added that this triumph was also a victory for the Arab nation, and a defeat for the advocates of secession and division, and also for their allies and supporters, who mobilized their military, financial, political, and media potential to aid the secessionists and partition the same and one homeland.

The vice president reiterated that the Iraqi people's steadfastness in the face of the military aggression, thwarting this aggression, and the enemies' failure to achieve their colonialist objectives, coupled with Yemen's victory, reflect the Arabs' mettle, their adherence to their sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as their rejection of subservience and partitioning.

Taha Yasin Ramadan indicated that the identification of fresh areas of cooperation between Iraq and Yemen will contribute to the promotion of ties between the two countries, which are strong and multifaceted.

For his part, the deputy speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives highly appreciated the reconstruction endeavor currently under way in Iraq, and Iraq's defiance of the circumstances of the blockade. He noted that his current visit to Iraq is a confirmation of the Yemenis' desire to further promote bilateral ties between the two fraternal countries and enhance them in the interest of the Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by Ghanim 'Aziz, deputy speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly.

Decree To Tattoo Those Punished by Amputation of Hand

JN0309143394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 Aug 94 p 4

[Revolution Command Council Decree No. 109, dated 18 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq

Revolution Command Council

Decree No. 109 dated 11 Rabi' al-Awwal 1415 Hegira corresponding to 18 August 1994.

Decree

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees as follows:

First: Whoever his hand has been amputated for a crime which is punishable under the law by amputation of the hand, an 'x' shall be tattooed between his eyebrows. Each of the crossing lines shall be one centimeter long and one millimeter wide.

Second: The tattooing shall be carried out at the general hospital where the amputation has taken place.

Third: The general hospital shall prepare the medical and technical requirements to facilitate the implementation of the tattooing operation.

Fourth: This decree shall be enforced as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette until further notice and it shall apply to whoever has been punished by amputation of the hand prior to the enforcement of this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council

More on Branding Punishment

NC0709093894 Paris AFP in English 2153 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Nicosia, Sept 6 (AFP)—Some 800 Iraqi army deserters have had their ears chopped off and their foreheads branded by the Iraqi authorities, who have also begun branding thieves who have already had a hand amputated, opposition sources charged Tuesday [6 September].

The Iraqi National Council (INC) opposition coalition said the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, headed by President Saddam Husayn, decided on the new form of punishment for thieves on August 18.

It was to apply to criminals who had their hands amputated for theft under a new law adopted in June based on Islamic practice.

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"This is another example of the gross and massive violations of human rights that continue in Iraq," said the INC, which is based in Kurdish-held northern Iraq.

The INC, in a communique sent to AFP in Nicosia, published what it said was a copy of the decree signed by Saddam that specifies that the branding on the forehead must be at least one centimetre (quarter of an inch) wide.

Iraqi Kurdish radio, meanwhile, said the authorities had chopped off the ears and branded 800 army deserters rounded up in the southern region of Basra.

The deserters were sent to Al-Jumhuri and Saddam hospitals in Baghdad where they had their ears cut off and their foreheads branded, added the radio, monitored by the BBC in London.

Saddam Husayn's Ba'th party, in power since 1968, has gradually ditched its secular principles. During the Gulf War in 1991, Saddam Husayn had the words "Allah O Akbar" (God is great) added to the Iraqi flag.

Bomb Blast Causes Property Damage in Baghdad

NC0809063894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0608 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep (MENA)—An explosion occurred late last night behind the Cultural-Industrial Center in the Iraqi capital. The blast caused no casualties and only slight property damage.

No group claimed responsibility and there was no official statement about the explosion, which comes less than a month after a car bomb incident near the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH's offices in Baghdad. An Egyptian child died and 13 Iraqi citizens were wounded then.

This is the fourth bomb blast in Baghdad this year.

Paper 'Implicitly Accuses' Security

NC0809105594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep (MENA)—In today's issue the Iraqi newspaper BABIL implicitly accuses Iraqi security in connection with the explosion last night.

The newspaper publishes a terse report on its front page headlined "To Whom It May Concern." The report says: Just a few days after the explosion of the booby-trapped car near the AL-JUMHURIYAH Publishing and Press Office, another explosion took place yesterday behind the Iraqi Industrial and Cultural Center near the army channel [as received] in Baghdad.

The newspaper noted that the explosion is the fourth in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, this year.

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Agreement With Syria on Golan Accord Said Near

Settlers Report Confirmation

TA0809074994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] The Golan settlements committee held an emergency meeting last night in the wake of information it had received that Israel and Syria are about to conclude an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the Golan. At the meeting, it was decided to step up the struggle against the government. Our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv reports.

[Begin Aviv recording] The Golan settlements committee says there is no longer any doubt that Israel and Syria are about to sign a draft agreement on Israel's recognition of Syria's sovereignty over the Golan and an agreement on an Israeli withdrawal from most of the Golan within three years. Eli Malka, the head of the Golan settlements committee, says that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin relayed his agreement to evacuate all the Golan settlements to President al-Asad. According to Malka, various reports on secret contacts have been gathered in recent months, but the Golan settlements committee did not act until additional information reached it on the eve of Rosh Hashanah from a senior military source and from the prime minister's bureau. This information came on top of reports from the United States and from the Foreign Ministry. Malka says that these reports confirm that Israel has agreed to withdraw from most of the Golan within three years and to evacuate 25 settlements. In the second stage, at the end of three years, Israel will withdraw from the other parts of the Golan and will evacuate another seven settlements, including Qatzrin.

The emergency meeting of the Golan settlements committee decided to step up its struggle to prevent the government from adopting irreversible moves. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 8 September adds that "Labor Knesset members [MK's] are organizing to make a special majority necessary for any concession of sovereignty on the Golan Heights. Party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that these MK's, members of Labor's mainstream, demand that any change in Israel's sovereignty on the Golan require a 70-percent majority in the Knesset and a 65-percent majority in a national referendum."]

Rabin Denies Reports

TA0809081594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Excerpt] Both the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office settled for very short comments in reaction to our appeal with regard to the remarks made by the Golan committee members. The Prime Minister's Office said there is no truth to this, while the Foreign Ministry says this is all imagination.

Nonetheless, Jerusalem takes a positive view of remarks by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', although they are viewed only as an additional expression of the positive signs that have been mentioned for several weeks, including the broadcast of the ceremony in which the Israeli-Jordanian accord was signed on the White House lawn, as well as the broadcast—this one, too, on Syrian television—of King Husayn's flight across Israel's skies. For the time being, we are not talking about the negotiations having moved to a higher level, as proven by the fact that it is not yet known when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive on another shuttle mission, because it is not clear whether conditions are ripe for advancing negotiations between Jerusalem and Damascus. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 8 September carries a report by political correspondent Udi Segal, who says that Jerusalem views remarks made by the Syrian foreign minister in London "as another signal in a series of signals that point to Syria's readiness to advance toward peace, and although it is something, it is not enough as far as Israel is concerned."

[Segal points out that in remarks to IDF Radio during Rosh Hashanah, "Rabin disclosed for the first time—and herein lies the importance of his statement—that Israel is prepared to complete the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal on the Golan within three years, in the course of which the normalization steps will be examined. According to the Israeli proposal, which was relayed to the Syrians via the United States, normalization will be introduced immediately upon the withdrawal to the first line, a withdrawal Rabin described as limited. Rabin spoke about a phased withdrawal: The first stage would involve a limited withdrawal and the implementation of normalization steps, which would be examined over a period of three years; this would be followed by a withdrawal to the last line, which Rabin did not name and which would be agreed upon with the Syrians."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 8 September reports that the Likud has said that "one cannot believe Yitzhaq Rabin's denials with regard to his readiness to withdraw from all of the Golan. Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau, the head of the Likud bureau, told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that it is now completely clear that the prime minister is deceiving the people and the Golan settlers and that he intends to leave the Galilee Panhandle at Syria's mercy."]

Rabin on Proposal

TA0809095094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that according to Israel's proposal for negotiations with Syria, a tiny

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withdrawal will take place on the Golan in the first stage, without the uprooting of any settlement, and the final arrangement will be determined after a three-year trial period. During these three years, long-term security agreements, an early warning system, and U.S. involvement will be examined. Our political correspondent reports that Mr. Rabin said this at the beginning of the cabinet meeting this morning. Minister Ya'aqov Tzur asked Mr. Rabin what he means by a tiny withdrawal, but the prime minister refrained from elaborating. The cabinet meeting was called to conclude the discussion of an anti-inflation plan.

The Tzomet faction is calling for an urgent meeting of all Knesset opposition factions in order to prepare for early elections, focusing on the future of the Golan. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Knesset Members Refa'el Eytan and Moshe Peled say they possess well-based information that the prime minister intends to forgo a national referendum and place the issue of the Golan withdrawal and the peace package with Syria at the center of early elections. According to them, elections may take place in the coming year.

Sharon, Netanyahu Comment

TA0409095994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Likud Knesset Member [MK] Ari'el Sharon says that he knows that there are only several marginal issues left unresolved on the road to an agreement about the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria. He discussed this matter with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu during a meeting of the Tagar circle in Tel Aviv last night. Sharon believes Rabin's government will have no problems lasting until the 1996 elections. Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports:

[Begin recording] [Tal] Last night, the Tagar circle was the scene of MK's Sharon and Netanyahu's attacks against the government. The two sat together most of the evening and had dinner, with only Ramla Mayor Yo'el Lavi sitting between them. The issues the two discussed were Jerusalem and the Palestinian activity there; the situation in Hebron and the situation of the Jews who live there, including the issue of the Cave of the Patriarchs; and the Golan Heights. Regarding the latter issue, Sharon said that there are only several marginal issues left unresolved between Israel and Syria on the road to an agreement.

[Sharon] It appears that today the government is ready to bring about the evacuation of most of the Golan Heights, once an agreement is signed. It agrees to hold on to only the rim of the [western] cliffs. The withdrawal will be implemented within a year from the signing, and most of the Jewish settlements on the Golan Heights will be evacuated. [Word indistinct] to remain along the edge of the cliff, along the line they call the Haruv Line, for five years, while Syria demands that the duration be only three years. An issue left to be resolved then is the Syrian demand that Israel withdraw to the 1967 lines after the interim period—which they demand last three years while the government insists on five years, but will most certainly compromise on this as well—while Israel demands that the final withdrawal be to the British mandate line. That means that the area of al-Hammah and the Baniyas Hill near Kibbutz Dan will be left in our hands.

[Tal] Regarding the issue of Hebron, Sharon said that there is no reason not to open the Cave of the Patriarchs. He claims that the government has an agreement with Yasir 'Arafat according to which the cave will not be reopened before the Palestinians assume control over Hebron. Sharon claims that this too will not deter Jews from praying there.

Binyamin Netanyahu said that the claim that the conflict with the Arabs stems from the fact that we conquered the land of another nation is a rewriting of history. If we do not have a right to be in Judaea and Samaria, he said, than we have no right to be here as well. He maintains that the prime minister is protecting 'Arafat:

[Netanyahu] Yitzhaq Rabin has linked his future with that of 'Arafat. He will do everything he can to save 'Arafat from falling because if 'Arafat goes down, Rabin will go down with him.

[Tal] Ari'el Sharon said that although the government leans on a slim majority, it is enough to allow it to safely reach the next elections. According to him, the national camp should rally around an idea, not around a person. [end recording]

Rabin Critical of PNA, Urges 'Secret' Syria Talks

TA0509195994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Sep 94

["Special Rosh Hashanah" interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 5 September—recorded, in Hebrew]

[Excerpt] [Ganor] Mr. Prime Minister, what is required of the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA] so that the hostilities emanating from Gaza will stop?

[Rabin] There is no question that it greatly hurts that there is another victim as a result of terror by the Palestinian enemies of peace, and I am referring to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and to the Islamic Jihad. I think the time has come for the PNA to act against those who perpetrate terror. Political disagreements for or against the accord are legitimate in democratic regimes such as Israel's, and, therefore, it is inconceivable to me to demand that the Palestinians fight against the opponents of the accord, but it is the responsibility of the PNA, of its security forces, to operate in the territory under its control against those who perpetrate this murderous terror against Israelis, terror which is aimed at disrupting if not halting the

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peace process. They are not doing so. They do not show any effort to handle these terror elements. In my opinion, if this lasts, it will place a big question mark on the ability to continue to implement the Declaration of Principles [DOP] signed in Washington.

[Ganor] The State of Israel then bids farewell to the outgoing Jewish year with another terror victim. Will Israel restrain itself over time in the face of the inability or lack of desire of the PNA to act against the terror elements?

[Rabin] Let me repeat, all I am asking of the PNA is to use its ability, and it has the ability, to act against the terror elements—Hamas, or the Islamic Jihad, or Habash's movement—to act! I do not require 100 percent success of them, but today they do not act, and let me repeat: This places a big question mark on the ability of continuing the implementation of the DOP.

[Ganor] Will the ability of the PNA to function affect Israel's willingness to implement the next stages, namely, the transfer of powers, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, and the elections?

[Rabin] We have just signed the early empowerment issue. One power [education] has been transferred already. Four powers depend on what happens in Paris between 8 and 10 September, in the dialogue between the Palestinians and the donor countries, with our participation. Still, terror surely clouds the ability to carry on beyond this stage.

[Ganor] Mr. Prime Minister, may we understand from this that a question mark is hovering over the next stages?

[Rabin] I have not said so. We are prepared to fulfill our commitment, namely, the implementation of the next stages. Still, it is likewise the PNA's duty to implement its part of the agreement, to operate against murderers, against terror.

[Ganor] Will the IDF otherwise enter Gaza and look for the terrorists there?

[Rabin] At the moment I would like to assume that the situation is correctable, that we will fulfill our commitment but that the PNA will also fulfill its commitment on such a sensitive issue as terror. I will not say what will happen if this is not the case.

[Ganor] Following the public diplomacy demonstrated by Syria and Israel, what step is required now in order to enter the substantive negotiating stage?

[Rabin] [Word indistinct] change, but it is worth remembering that we would not have achieved the al-Sadat visit at the time had it not been for two secret meetings between [then Defense Minister] Dayan and al-Tuhami [then the Moroccan king's adviser] in Morocco. We would not have reached the DOP agreement and the Israel-PLO mutual recognition letters had it not been for secret contacts which lasted for about six months in Oslo. We would not have reached the Washington Declaration had it not been for quiet contacts with Jordan. Syria should understand that without such contacts it will be very difficult to overcome those disagreements, those gaps which exist between the Syrian and Israeli positions today and which prevent the signing of a peace treaty. As long as they are not agreeable to this, I attach great importance to the shuttle trips by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher between Damascus and Jerusalem in order to maintain the chance of overcoming the gaps nevertheless. The best alternative would be to hold a quiet meeting between authoritative representatives of the two countries, as this proved itself in the cases of Egypt, the PLO, and Jordan.

[Ganor] Are the remarks by the Syrian foreign minister about warm peace encouraging?

[Rabin] I think this is a positive statement, but a statement is not enough. Who in the world today dares say he is not in favor of peace?! The problem is always what kind of peace and at what price he wants peace. I do believe Syria wants peace. The problem is that it wants it under such conditions, at such a timetable and price, that I, at least, am not prepared for this. I think it is possible and necessary to bridge gaps. If they are not prepared to do so directly, (?to sit) with us, we will continue the dialogue through Secretary of State Christopher. It is important to continue, and I strongly hope that next year, in the Jewish calendar, we will reach some breakthrough with Syria. I am not sure of this, but I greatly aspire to this. [passage omitted]

Rabin on IDF Redeployment, Future of Golan

TA0509102594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Sep 94 p 5

["Special Rosh Hashanah interview" with Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, by Steve Rodan and Alon Pinkas; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [JERUSALEM POST] Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Baraq says the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the territories will be very complicated and would harm the security of Jewish residents there. How much of a risk are you willing to take?

[Rabin] You have to bear in mind that we are committed to pre-redeployment in case of Palestinian elections: That is to take the IDF out of the center of densely population areas to facilitate elections. So far, the proposal of the Palestinians for elections are in contradiction to the Declaration of Principles [DOP]. What they have presented us is the election of a 100-person body or a legislative body. This, instead of what is written in the DOP, to elect the members of the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA]. This is 24 or 25 members.

I want to remind you that vis-a-vis the agreement in the West Bank, not Jericho, the word withdrawal is not

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mentioned. We're talking about redeployment. The redeployment will be part of the implementation of the agreement in the Judaea and Samaria area.

At this point we are committed only to pre-redeployment, which is related only to the elections. Here we might touch sensitive areas. We will have to work out, at least within ourselves, the structure of the interim agreement before we negotiate pre-redeployment required for the elections.

As for elections, according to the DOP—and we will stick to the DOP—they have to elect the Palestinian Authority. You can't take up elections without taking up what are the structures, the authority, the spheres of influence. How it will be interrelated in an entirely new situation. How will the West Bank be related to the Gaza Strip, settlements, military installations, main lines of communications. The idea is let's start with the pre-redeployment and elections before we have in mind the overall structure and picture of the interim agreement.

[POST] Did you consider evacuating the Gaza settlements of Netzarim and Kfar Darom, given the security situation there?

[Rabin] Not at all. I look at it as a matter of principle. I didn't want to bring about any change of the deployment of the settlements during the interim agreement. It's an issue that has to be negotiated in the context of the permanent solution between the Palestinians and us. I knew there would be certain difficulties for the Palestinians to cope with the extreme Islamic terror organizations. I didn't expect it to be solved easily. We could not uproot settlements before knowing what will be the will and the capabilities of the PNA to deal with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad terror.

[POST] You have suggested to the PLO that until it fights terrorism, there's no point continuing to the next stage of the DOP.

[Rabin] I didn't make any ultimatum. I didn't threaten. I made it clear that unless they take effective measures against terror, not against political organizations, it will be difficult to do what can be done in the continuation of the implementation of the DOP. I did not say when and how we'll translate it in the negotiations and the implementation with the Palestinians.

There is another issue: the changing of the article of the Palestinian covenant, which calls for the destruction of Israel. These two issues have to be dealt with, not by public statements, but by making it clear in the process that not only Israel will keep its commitment. The Palestinians will have to keep theirs also.

[POST] Baraq says that even in peacetime Israel should retain the Golan Heights. OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Yitzhaq Mordekhay says Syria's role in the peace process might be a strategic deception. Are you happy with these statements? Do they reflect government policy?

[Rabin] I believe the intelligence community and the top echelon of the military have to voice their opinion regardless of what kind of government they serve. Adjusting the military's opinion to the kind of government it serves will destroy the credibility and the effectiveness of the IDF and will bring about a danger to the national consensus that exists in Israel concerning the IDF.

Unfortunately, nowadays, whatever is said in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee or in the cabinet is practically as if it was said in public. You can't expect the chief of staff not to present his opinion as a military man.

If prime minister Menahem Begin had asked his chief of staff what is the better line of withdrawal in the Sinai: the one between al-'Arish and Ra's al-Muhammad or the international boundary, every chief of staff would tell you Ra's al-Muhammad-al-'Arish. Let's distinguish between a military opinion and a political strategic assessment and policy. The more you have of the Golan Heights, the better. The question is how much you can compromise to achieve peace. Peace, first diplomatic peace, then normalization, will reduce the motivation of the Arab countries to go to war. Therefore, the decision is made by the elected government. The military can take a position. It's only the political level that can reconcile the military position and what the political level decides it is ready to pay for peace. [passage omitted]

[POST] Baraq says we have to stay on the Golan even in peace. Does this mean the IDF needs the Golan for basic defense?

[Rabin] That he didn't say. He added that at the same time the decision is with the government. We will have to find the best arrangement. An officer has no right to put into his professional opinion or decision policy considerations. If I am to take risks, we need time, we need normalization before we withdraw to the line that will be decided. We need security arrangements, not only demilitarization.

[POST] Is demilitarization a prerequisite?

[Rabin] When I spoke to the Americans I said the negotiations with Syria have to be a package. I compared it to a table with four legs: the depth of the withdrawal; the timetable; the interface between limited withdrawal; and full normalization. Allow me to remind you that the first withdrawal with Egypt was to Ra's al- Muhammad and al-'Arish. Once we completed this, full normalization was established. We were for two years and two months with full normalization without full withdrawal to the line we agreed on. We need to set a period of time. The fourth leg are security arrangements: warning stations, monitoring devices, monitoring forces, not peacekeeping forces.

[POST] You mean U.S. troops on the Golan?

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[Rabin] Look, we have about 1,000 American forces in the Sinai. They're not peacekeeping forces. None of them was hurt. We're not talking about UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon], Somalia or Bosnia. We are talking about that once two independent states reach agreement on a peace treaty, we need to monitor the military aspects of it, the way the Multi-National Force does in the Sinai.

[POST] Would you accept Syrian occupation of Lebanon under a peace treaty? Are the 40,000 Syrian troops there a potential second front in a future war?

[Rabin] If we are talking about the concept of peace, the question is not one or two divisions in Lebanon, but to what extent peace and security arrangements become reality. This will be the major issues. As a former military man, I prefer two Syrian divisions deployed in the northern al-Biqa' than on the Golan Heights.

But there is a political question. Under the present situation in Lebanon, I don't know if any government in Beirut can really cope with terrorism in the south without Syrian backing. At this stage, I am not sure that any government in Lebanon, including the present one, which has achieved certain things, can do without Syrian support if it wants to overcome all kinds of militias and terrorist organizations.

[POST] You recently told U.S. Jewish leaders of longtime Syrian violations of the Golan Heights disengagement accord. Why haven't you reported this to the Israel public?

[Rabin] I learned two months ago that Syria told the United Nations that longtime limited violations of the disengagement agreement will be corrected. For a long time, Israel complained, for four years actually, without any response from the Syrians. Let's put it in the right proportion. These violations have very limited significance to the security of Israel.

[POST] On the eve of Rosh Hashanah, how do you feel about being Jewish?

[Rabin] I am Jewish in the way that I understand the meaning of Judaism. It is a combination of people, values, history, and tradition. I was born Jewish. I took it for granted and never questioned it.

Without elaborating, I am part of the generation of the 1940s. The 1940s was the most important decade since the destruction of the Second Temple. It contained the two most important events: the most dramatic tragedy, the Holocaust; and, the greatest achievement of the Jewish people, the recreation of a Jewish state in the land of Israel. I either witnessed or participated in both of these events. For me, these were the two most important events. Let's not forget them.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on pages 2, 3, and 4 of the ROSH HASHANAH supplement on 5 September carries a similar interview with Prime Minister Rabin by Amnon Abramovich, who asks: "Regarding the nuclear issue, if we do not have such weapons, how come they lash at us all the time, including the recent Egyptian appeal?" Rabin answers: "The State of Israel has said that it will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the region, which implies what you have just said. The other thing we said is that we are willing to make agreements that would make the Middle East free of nuclear arms. Yet, this should be done as part of an agreement between Israel and each of the countries in our region that could threaten Israel with nuclear weapons. Unless there is such an agreement, the aim of which is to really clean the region, we will sign no agreements.

["Iraq signed an agreement on nuclear nonproliferation, and it even came under an inspection, but only after the Gulf War and the ensuing UN inspection did we learn of everything that was found there despite the signature and the international supervision. This is why we have no intention of signing anything other than bilateral agreements. The Egyptians did raise it, and I will tell you what I told the Egyptian foreign minister. I said that I do not know that you, the Egyptians, have been authorized by Iraq, Iran, or Libya to say anything on their behalf. What is the point of us dealing with this? Unless there is a comprehensive regional framework that binds everyone, there is no reason for us to argue about this. I find it hard to see such an agreement existing or being seriously suggested before we sign a peace agreement with them."]

IDF Chief on Palestinians, Golan, Lebanon

TA0509133394 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (ROSH HASHANAH supplement) in Hebrew 5 Sep 94 pp 22, 23, 24

[Interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, IDF chief of staff, by Alex Fishman in Baraq's office; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Fishman] Our expectations of the agreement with the PLO go beyond merely having quiet. Some issues mentioned in the agreement are not being implemented, such as the way the Palestinians treat the collaborators or the issue of turning over to Israel fugitives who committed murders here?

[Baraq] You will not hear me lavish unwarranted praise on the Palestinian police. Looking at the picture as a whole, there has been a significant decline in the scope of riots and a small decline in the number of terror attacks. There has been a certain rise in the number of armed attacks in the Gaza area and a certain rise in the number of firebombs and explosive charges attacks in Judaea and Samaria. The overall number of attacks in the Gaza Strip and in Judaea and Samaria is more or less stable. I do not know how things will develop. It may well be that by the time this interview is published there will be, God forbid, a grave attack. Nevertheless, if I compare this year's four months before the agreement with the four

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months after it was signed, I see a decline in the our casualty toll. It has not gone down to zero, and it is not going to. We are in the midst of a complex struggle against terrorism by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and perhaps others.

[Fishman] What others?

[Baraq] Perhaps some Fatah dissidents who oppose the agreement.

[Fishman] What should we do to make them meet the terms of the agreement and fight Hamas?

[Baraq] We are very unhappy with the temperament and method of their performance. We must determinedly demand that they adhere to what they signed. To me, this is a very important test regarding the questions of if and how we can proceed with the political arrangements and whether and how we can continue providing the services the Israeli society gives to the Palestinian society—such as work places, passages, and other services. The issues are intertwined. Obviously, if in a few months we realize that they are unable to take charge of the area, it would have an effect on the way the process develops. At the same time, we are still far from declaring the agreement a failure.

[Fishman] While in the United States last month, you spoke of the need to stay on the Golan from the security aspect.

[Baraq] The remark as such is not new. I reiterate it occasionally, every several months. I said that as long as there is no peace, we need the entire Golan Heights. Also, from a purely military point of view, we should be deployed on the Golan even at times of peace. Nevertheless, we are an army of a democratic state where the government makes the political decisions, and the army deploys in accordance with them.

[Fishman] Was your declaration about the Golan made following things you heard about the U.S. willingness and ability to contribute to the security arrangements?

[Baraq] No. It was not connected with the things I heard in the United States, although I had the opportunity to discuss the characteristics and security arrangements required.

[Fishman] Did you come out of the conversations feeling that they understand the problem and are willing to help?

[Baraq] I came out feeling that the meetings very much helped them understand the inner logic of the things we believe should be part of the security arrangements. My remarks regarding the Golan were made in order to prevent the possibility that someone—in the United States or, God forbid, in Syria—might interpret the fact that we are discussing potential aspects of the security arrangements with the Americans to mean that the we are accepting the Syrian demands in return for those security arrangements. They constantly demand an announcement of a full withdrawal before it is even possible to begin discussing the details of the agreement.

[Fishman] Several weeks before the breakthrough with Jordan, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] General Staff discussed the multiyear plan which stretches through to the end of the decade. Should the basic assumptions of the plan not be changed in view of the above?

[Baraq] No. When we started dealing with the plan, we asked ourselves whether it would be correct to view the changes made so far as stable and substantive enough to warrant a reevaluation of the structure of our forces, the security concept, and the main points of it, and we decided it would not. We will ask ourselves this question again in mid-1995.

[Fishman] It appears that over the past year, our ability to deal with Hizballah in the security zone has deteriorated. The army has suffered 13 fatalities in Lebanon this year.

[Baraq] And do you remember last year's toll?

[Fishman] I saw Giv'ati Brigade soldiers complaining on television that their hands are tied. What do you say to that?

[Baraq] It is not true. Our activity in the security zone is diversified. It is very good that young platoon commanders and soldiers wish to immediately get across the border and smash the serpent's head, and it is very good that the very senior echelons sit and quietly think which is the right thing to do and which is not. Last year, we carried out a variety of types of operations, which I believe are very good. Last year, 70 terrorists were killed and, unfortunately, we lost 13 of our men. We lost 30 in the year before. I cannot say that the effectiveness of our operations is declining. At the same time, I must honestly say that I do not know that we will not clash with terrorists and suffer casualties tomorrow.

[Fishman] Is operational activity in the north not affected by the feeling that a political arrangement is drawing near, hence, it is not worth taking military chances?

[Baraq] No, it is not affected. Just the opposite. We will fight Hizballah until the very last day in order to harm it as much as possible while minimizing our casualties. [passage omitted]

Army Intelligence Chief Sagi on PNA, Syria

TA0709131494 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Sep 94 p 18

[Interview with Major General Uri Sagi, head of the IDF General Staff Intelligence Branch, by Dan Avidan; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Avidan] How does the Intelligence Branch view the balance of power between

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those supporting 'Arafat and the peace process and their opposition? Could a Palestinian civil war break out under certain conditions?

[Sagi] Anyone trusting the dubious public opinion polls conducted in the autonomy area is risking inaccuracy. At the same time, it can still be assumed that those supporting the continuation of the peace process are in the majority. Theoretically, the possibility of a political about face should not be ruled out either.

As for a civil war, all Palestinian elements, including those opposing the political process, have vowed to avoid it. Even Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which represents the one pole of the opposition to 'Arafat's political vision, is showing increasing signs of cooperation with the Palestinian [National] Authority. Senior Hamas sources have even made statements—which were nonetheless denied almost immediately upon their publication—that there is a need to make peace with reality and join the political move. This indicates that all the elements wish to avoid a civil war. They realize this is a very bad alternative. There is the occasional elimination of a collaborator or a terror act against Palestinians, but a civil war in the broad sense is not taking place, and I believe all the Palestinian parties will do everything they can to avoid this. Incidentally, I was not one of those who estimated before the agreement was implemented that a Palestinian civil war would break out. [passage omitted]

[Avidan] The Syrian issue is no less important than the Palestinian one. What is al-Asad's personal stand? Is he ready to establish full normalization with Israel in return for a full withdrawal from the Golan? In other words, does he aspire for peace based on the Egyptian model, or does he have one of his own?

[Sagi] I cannot go into detail, but it would be correct to say that al-Asad prefers a political way to attain his goals. Al-Asad wants to regain full Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights, and I have not detected the slightest change on his part regarding the issue.

[Avidan] Will he accept a certain Israeli presence on the Golan as part of a peace agreement?

[Sagi] I do not think so. Another goal of al-Asad's is to improve Syria's strategic ties with the United States which, after the disappearance of the USSR, has remained the sole superpower relevant to the Middle East issue. This has political, economic, military, and technological aspects, and al-Asad ignores none of them. A third Syrian interest is to have the Syrian strategic presence in Lebanon recognized. According to al-Asad, the presence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon is legitimate and is not contrary to the al-Ta'if agreement. The contract of brotherhood further ties Syria to Lebanon and allows the Syrian presence there in its current form, which does not contradict the will of the Lebanese Government and president.

Al-Asad realizes he cannot attain these goals—or at least the first two—without the political process. He also understands that Israel and the United States will not settle for less than peace, normalization, and security arrangements in return for what he would like to achieve. I detect, as I have before, a willingness on his part to pay with this currency. In the mean time, however, and without going into detail, it has not gone beyond the broad definition. Hence, the road is still long, and both parties need to bridge the gaps between them and provide the political process with practical detailed measures.

Al-Asad is aware of what took place with the Palestinians and Jordanians, as well as the "Egyptian model." Over the last three years the Egyptians have presented him the advantages derived from a political arrangement. The time element, which is not unlimited, is also clear to al-Asad. The United States, as the sponsor of the political process, and Israel will enter an election process in the coming 18 months which may, although not necessarily so, slow down the political process due to domestic political considerations. Al-Asad is also troubled that the Palestinians and Jordanians might make additional progress.

One needs to take into account that Syria should prepare for the political process internally, and I have not noticed that they are rushing on this matter. Still, al-Asad is capable of enlisting sufficient support—albeit not under the democratic terms we recognize—to continue and make progress. I cannot identify any Syrian opposition that will disrupt his political decisions. In any event, I believe that Syria thinks its interests require the political process to lead to practical results.

[Avidan] Can you identify any focus of power or single individual in the Syrian establishment who is opposed to the peace process? Why have we not recently heard so much from Khaddam who has been the vice president and al-Asad's aide for many years?

[Sagi] I do not want to go into initimate detail. I think that even if there were people in Syria who believed that the political process, in its current form, is not of supreme Syrian interest, they are negligible in view of al-Asad's ultimate ability to decide and lead Syria in the direction he sees as correct.

Syria is building up militarily. Some—not myself—think that this contradicts the political process, while others think this backs the political process according to al-Asad's view. Incidentally, some Syrians note that they are not the only ones who are engaging in a considerable and impressive military buildup alongside the political process, and they are referring to Israel, of course. I would not make light of Syria's military threat, but for the time being, it seems to me that it runs parallel rather than counter to the political process. As intelligence people, it is our duty to be cautious and detect the possible emergence of other signs, but for the moment, it

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would be correct to state that Syria is engaged in seeking a political road for the achievement of its goals. [passage omitted]

[Avidan] What scenarios may evolve in Syrian-Israeli relations if the political negotiations get deadlocked?

[Sagi] At this stage, a deadlock situation seems hypothetical to me, but it is possible, surely theoretically. Will this immediately sound the bells of war? It is too early to say, but it is clear that we will then need to be even more careful with our assessment. In my assessment though, even if the political process collapses or gets deadlocked, this will not necessarily be followed by intense preparations for war. Such preprations are not detached from the overall, international context, nor from the Middle Eastern one. Such processes surely require not only a psychological upheaval, but also a time of preparation (for war—Dan Avidan). In Syria too, people will ask: What is the alternative, and what would be its results? This is a difficult, complex, and complicated question. The State of Israel is regarded by the Syrians as very strong militarily. Syria will surely be very careful before making such a crucial strategic decision.

[Avidan] What is the meaning of the recent reshuffle in the Syrian military leadership, such as the deposition of 'Ali Haydar, the head of the commando forces, and the appointment of a new commander in his place? Could you shed light on the new appointments, and whether they hold any significance for the peace issue?

[Sagi] The appointments reflect domestic Syrian processes which I would not like to analyse, but it would not be appropriate to reach a sweeping conclusion that goes beyond the (internal) proportions. 'Ali Haydar is a very veteran officer who cooperated with President al-Asad for a great number of years, but there were apparently reasons to replace him. At this stage, I do not see wide implications beyond the decision itself.

[Avidan] What noteworthy weapons has Syria purchased over the last year, and what are its procurement plans for the next year or two? What is the Intelligence Branch's assessment of the Syrian Army's ability today and in the foreseeable future?

[Sagi] An army's procurement plans are measured over years. Over the last year Syria has not equipped itself with important weapons, but one should look at long-term procurement plans. Over the last three years Syria has purchased new tanks, artillery, self-propelled guns, Scud-C missiles with a range that covers every target in the State of Israel, and ammunition from different and odd locations. We were afraid that Syria was also looking for a way to massively equip itself with new antiaircraft means and advanced planes, but for the time being this has not happened.

[Avidan] Were you afraid they would equip themselves with weapons such as the SA-10 surface-to-air missile system?

[Sagi] Yes, weapons such as the SA-10, or sophisticated fighter planes. As noted, this has not happened for the time being and the future will prove whether a contract will be signed. Over the last year Syria has not struck impressive arms deals, but over the last three years, Syria has greatly improved its equipment.

[Avidan] What can Syria do to reduce Hizballah's anti-Israeli activity?

[Sagi] If it wanted to, Syria could have stopped Hizballah's terror. In the meantime, it views the attacks directed at the IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] forces in the security zone as legitimate actions that will result in the removal of Israel as a foreign force from Lebanon. On the other hand, Syria opposes the firing of katyushas toward Israeli territory (unless it is in reaction to an Israeli violation of the understandings reached in the wake of Operation Accountability), for fear that Israel would react firmly and it would thus lose control of the situation.

[Avidan] What is the nature of Lebanon's dependence on Syria with regard to the political negotiations? Is there truth to reports about Lebanon's readiness to reach a separate settlement with Israel?

[Sagi] Lebanon's dependence on Syria is absolute. I would not suggest that we get seized by media gimmicks which serve the interests of persons unknown to us. There is no doubt that the political process features a uniform Syrian and Lebanese outlook. Neither in the past, nor today, have the Lebanese found it fitting to demonstrate any independent approach with regard to the political process with Israel. Hence, any progress in the process between Syria and Israel will also mean progress between Lebanon and Israel.

[Avidan] What is Husayn's peace strategy? Will he sign a separate peace treaty with Israel, and will he go for joint commercial and industrial projects before the signing of such a treaty?

[Sagi] The overt exceeds the covert on this matter. The king made a strategic decision about peace. According to his approach, this will be done in the framework of an overall settlement, but he did publicly announce his intention to sign a peace treaty with Israel. A peace treaty is preceded by normalization moves. Practically speaking, things are already taking place in the area. The Jordanian-Israeli negotiations focus on the basic problems: The problems of borders, water, and security. These are the key issues. Everything else is a derivative of agreements on these issues. I would not rule out the possibility that Israel and Jordan will manage to bridge the gaps in these issues by themselves. Again though, it is the prerogative of the political echelon of both parties to make political decisions. I think that ultimately speaking, Husayn truly intends to sign a peace treaty, but he would very much like to make sure at least, that some progress is made in the negotiations between Israel and

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Syria and that more progress is achieved with the Palestinians. If and when this takes place, I cannot see any reason why the king would not sign a peace treaty.

[Avidan] Is he in good health?

[Sagi] To the best of my knowledge, yes.

[Avidan] If King Husayn is not in the political arena, is his brother Hasan, who is slated to succeed him, strong enough to pursue Husayn's road? Will he enjoy the same support of the Jordanian Army, for instance?

[Sagi] I have never won a lottery, nor would I like to gamble, but it seems to me that the Hashemite Kingdom is sufficiently stable and strong to continue the political process without King Husayn. The Army is very loyal and disciplined, and so are the other security forces. All in all, the Kingdom of Jordan features impressive stability.

[Avidan] Were the secular regime in Algeria to fall into the hands of the religious fanatics, as is believed by the British magazine THE ECONOMIST, for instance, what implications would such a development have for the Middle East?

[Sagi] The potential for instability in the Middle East due to the fanatical Islam and its terroristic ramifications is there, of course, but the Arab leaders are aware of this danger. I would not rush to conclusions about Algeria, and even if fundamentalist Islam has the upper hand there, this will not necessarily have implications for other Middle Eastern countries.

Rabinovich Evaluates Relations With U.S.

TA0509125794 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Sep 94 p 19

[Interview with Ambassador to the United States Itamar Rabinovich by Drora Perl in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Perl] What is the overall impact of all of this year's achievements on our relations with the United States?

[Rabinovich] The relationship is one of basic friendship, which can be cultivated and improved through shared achievements. The upheaval in our relations with the United States took place in the summer of 1992. A sharp shift occurred with the lifting of the loan guarantees issue and the beginning of a joint effort between the Bush-Baker administration and the Rabin government. The Clinton administration introduced an even warmer atmosphere. From his first day in office, the pattern of close cooperation and intimate relations was set. Obviously, when there are achievements, there is also a strengthening of these positive foundations. The general consensus is that the peace process in the Middle East is an outstanding success story for U.S. foreign policy, although not necessarily the most important. Relations with Russia are the crucial issue for the United States, which are also a success story for the administration, but they do not contain elements of drama, and are not as outstanding as what is taking place in Middle East diplomacy.

[Perl] What is Washington's current and future role in the negotiations?

[Rabinovich] Washington remains central to the negotiations. There has been a major positive change in the negotiations with the Palestinians and the Jordanians, first and foremost by moving them to the region itself. The negotiations with Syria are being conducted either through Washington or in Washington. As the person handling the negotiations, I hope that in the foreseeable future they will reach a situation where it will also be possible to start talking about conducting and implementing them in the region. In the meantime, Washington, as a location and as a political concept, remains very central to the negotiations, because the dialogue with Syria is being handled via the Americans and because from the Syrian viewpoint, the rapprochement with Washington is an organic part of the negotiations. With the Jordanians as well, a significant aspect of the issues under discussion, prior to the signing, was Washington: writing off debts, military aid, the rehabilitation of King Husayn's standing in Washington. There is also the trilateral framework, mainly on economic issues.

A healthy balance is being worked out, in which parts of the conciliatory process and its implementation are taking place in the region, and other parts, such as economic issues, continue to be focused in Washington, because of its centrality.

[Perl] Do you join Christopher's evaluation that we will also have peace with the Syrians by the end of 1996?

[Rabinovich] Christopher referred to two dates: an agreement with the Syrians in late 1994 and a comprehensive peace in 1996. I am not sure about the time frame. We have already learned that elements that none of us have any control over can cause holdups or speed things up. The negotiations with Syria have entered a new phase of serious discussions. Christopher referred to 1994 because that is what President Clinton heard from al-Asad. An agreement with Syria can definitely develop into a comprehensive agreement with the Arab world. I join the evaluation about the trend without pointing to specific places on the time axis.

[Perl] A year ago, immediately after the agreement with the Palestinians, you wished us all another breakthrough in the coming year. Within the context of our new tradition, what do you wish us at the start of the new year?

[Rabinovich] In the context of our relations with the United States, a continuation of the very positive trends taking place. In the peace process, a stabilization of what has already been achieved and a breakthrough in what still has to be achieved.

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Vatican Envoy on Roles as Delegate, Ambassador

TA0609060494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] The Vatican's ambassador to Israel says he has a separate role as Papal envoy to Jerusalem and Palestine, as he put it. Monsignor Andrea Codero Lanza di Montezemolo made the statement to reporters after his initial talks with Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza. Speaking at a joint news conference, he said: My role is, first of all, to be apostolic delegate—that means a representative of the pope to Jerusalem and Palestine. Then, very recently, I have also been appointed ambassador to Israel. He added that in both roles, he hoped to help bring real peace to the holy land.

'Arafat told reporters that he and di Montezemolo had discussed the Vatican's intention to establish ties with the Palestinian Authority. Di Montezemolo took up his post as the first Vatican ambassador on 16 August, two months after diplomatic relations were established between the two sides. He said Pope John Paul II hoped to visit Israel soon, but a date had not yet been scheduled.

Tunisia Said 'Hesitant' on Tightening Ties

TA0609081394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Jerusalem has received pessimistic reports regarding the possibility of promoting the ties between Israel and Tunisia. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz was told that Israel's ambassador in Belgium has reported that Tunis is hesitant on tightening its ties with Israel, mainly in view of the tension between Morocco and Algeria. According to this report, Tunisia fears Algeria's pressures against making moves supportive of Moroccan policies. Our correspondent notes that Belgium is the main channel of communications between Israel and Tunisia.

Participation in Moroccan Desalination Reported

TA0509130794 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Sep 94 p 3

[ITIM report]

[Text] Israel will participate in a desalination and irrigation project in Morocco, a political source told ITIM. It has also been learned that it will be a joint project run by Israel, Morocco, and Luxembourg.

Former Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Katz-'Oz, who heads the working group on water, and Foreign Ministry official Ilan Barukh, are now visiting Morocco to coordinate the details of the project.

It was also reported that if the project succeeds it could serve as the basis for Morocco's national water infrastructure.

Israel has a great deal of experience in cooperation projects in agriculture, building, and the laying of infrastructures in many African countries. A senior official in Jerusalem said that Israel has been given the opportunity to show its ability in a field in which it made its good name. "Morocco has a serious water problem. This project can show the advantages to be gained from Israeli-Arab cooperation," the source said.

Space Cooperation with Russia Detailed

TA0509093294 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV ('ASAQIM supplement) in Hebrew 4 Sep 94 p 10

[Text] Israel and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in space research and applications in Tel Aviv last weekend. It was signed by Yuriy Koptev, head of the Russian Space Agency, and Professor Yuval Ne'eman, chairman of Israel's Space Exploitation Agency [agency name as published]. The two countries will cooperate mainly in small satellites, which involve a great deal of miniaturized technologies. The applications will include civilian commercial needs, photography, metallurgy, and communications, which is a flourishing market today.

The Russian Space Agency employs 700,000 workers in its 40 plants, and it launches about 50 different civilian satellites annually. Over 160 such Russian satellites operate in space today. The Russians believe that the Israeli space industry, whose high quality they praised, can assist their marketing endeavors.

During the visit to Israel, the Russian Space Agency delegation was received by the prime minister and defense minister, it toured the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] and research institutions. It examined Tawax [as transliterated], the Israeli space telescope project carried out jointly by Tel Aviv University and Electro-Optics Industries, which will be launched aboard a Russian satellite in 1995, as well as the Technion satellite, which will be also launched by a Russian rocket. Immigrants from former USSR are on the project's staff.

Meanwhile it has been learned that IAI is negotiating the launch of a civilian photography satellite by a Russian rocket. The negotiations are conducted through a U.S. company which has been cooperating with Russia in launch projects because their cost is much lower than the launch of a U.S. or French rocket. There is great international competition is this sphere. The world's civilian-business space market is estimated at $40 billion (!) a year, and it is expected to grow to much bigger proportions. Israel plans to have a $2 billion share in this market in about 10 years.

Space Agency Head Comments

TA0409145194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Sep 94 p A2

[Interview with Dr. Marcel Klein, head of the Israel Space Agency, by Sharon Shade; place and date not given]

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[Excerpts] [Shade] Last week, Israel and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding on space cooperation. What direction will this cooperation take?

[Klein] The memorandum is meant to encourage contacts and create a congenial atmosphere for improving bilateral relations in the space sphere. It includes creating a basis for cooperation in the area of space sciences, research on civilian exploitation of space, as well as specific issues in which the two countries have joint interests, such as satellite communications. The Russians have accumulated excellent experience in operating satellite systems at various altitudes. At present, they operate more than 160 satellites of various kinds. It will also be possible to establish joint companies for advancing various projects.

[Shade] It was reported that Israel is considering the use of Russian launchers for positioning satellites in space. Is this advantageous?

[Klein] Russia is ceaselessly striving to win a larger piece of the launching services cake. The cost of sending a satellite via a Russian launcher is half that of Western launchers, and if we add to this the reputation and credibility of the Russians, then the West certainly has cause for concern. [passage omitted]

[Shade] In what areas does Israel have good chances of getting involved?

[Klein] Israel is operating on two main levels. One is providing communications services, as demonstrated through the development and production of the Amos satellite and the development of remote sensor satellites for civilian purposes—which are actually high-quality photography satellites. At the same time, Israel can play an important role in another area—namely, supplying launching services for lightweight satellites. Israel Aircraft Industries has developed the Next [as transliterated] launcher, which is based on the Shavit rocket, for this purpose.

[Shade] Is Israel investing enough in the space field?

[Klein] The Israeli Government has greatly reduced its financial support of the space field, and this is harming the industries involved in this area. The space agency's budget amounts to only $4 million. The Israeli space industry is based on the outdated infrastructure of the 1980's, and our reliance on it will hurt our marketing prospects.

Consulate General Opening in Shanghai

TA0509093694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] An Israel consulate general is being opened in Shanghai today. Shanghai, which has the largest port in China, is the capital of a province with 13 million inhabitants, and is one of the most important economic and political centers in China.

During World War II, some 20,000 Jews found refuge there. They joined the Jewish community founded in the mid-19th century. The community dispersed when the communists came to power in the late 1940's, and there are now almost no Jews left in Shanghai, but several Israeli companies operate in the town, and with the opening of the consulate, a growth in Israeli business activity is expected.

Peres Says Orient House Open for Meetings

TA0809093094 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 8 Sep 94 p 3

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced on the eve of Rosh Hashanah that Orient House is open for political meetings with diplomats. Peres made this observation on "Jerusalem Time," a news program of the 'Arutzey Zahav cable television. It will be noted that his declaration contradicts previous government declarations.

The foreign minister refuted, however, Faruq Qaddumi's remarks contending that he had made a commitment to the Palestinians on the issue of Jerusalem.

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German Economic Delegation Arrives for Talks

JN0709141694 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] A German delegation headed by deputy of the minister of economic cooperation and development is now here in Amman on a brief visit to the country. During its stay, the delegation will meet his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and discuss with him issues of mutual concern. Tomorrow, the German team will hold talks with officials from the Ministry of Planning.

Meets With Prince Hasan

JN0709193694 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 7 Sep 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received a German delegation led by Secretary of State of the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (Richard Hertel).

The meeting centered on the bilateral cooperation, particularly in the economic, commercial, technical assistance, and German loans to the kingdom.

The two sides emphasized Jordan's role in the Middle East peace process, and the kingdom's post-peace phase, as well as Germany's support of Jordan's development and economic projects, in addition to the kingdom's foreign debts.

Mr. (Hertel) pledged Bonn's economic support to Jordan, and to help boost the region's economy.

Prince Hasan Explains Policy to Party Chiefs

JN0709174694 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, has stressed that any political motto, if void of content, will be a burden on those who propagate it. He underlined that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, does not bargain its principles. His highness said Jordan is open to all opinions from various roots and origins in order to achieve a common understanding. The regent added: Jordanians want their country to be of influence, rather than to be influenced by others.

His highness, in the presence of Premier Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, today welcomed at the al-Hashimiyah Palace the secretaries general of the political parties, the chiefs of professional associations, and political activists. He urged that for active partnership to build a new civilized future phase, when the kingdom faces big challenges.

His highness asked about the continuation of defensive tones while expounding Jordan's political issues, and called for tolerance, understanding, and patience for reaching the stage of comprehending the realities of the stage. He urged the political powers to realize that we are in a changing world, explaining the dimensions of the past phase that witnessed what was imposed on Jordan since the Gulf crisis. The regent mentioned the return of the brethren from Kuwait, the siege of al-'Aqabah, saying Jordan must not forget such incidents that moved us to the current phase.

His highness described his meetings with the different political spectrums and economic activists as a form of deepening democracy for the sake of achieving national consensus, deepening inter-dialogue, and seeking out different views of how to defend the stability of the homeland.

The regent underlined that development and democracy are two parallel forms, and two faces of the same coin. He said modernization through the Royal Commission for Development is a legal constitutional modernization, for which all Jordanians are responsible and partners in it. His highness said it is inevitable to find a national coalition in order to have a common conviction for modernization and development to be regarded as a national issue while confronting challenges.

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Minister Involved in Reshuffle Resigns

NC0709165594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Saying that he resigned, former Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij left today's cabinet session only 10 minutes after it started. Mirhij said that he asked the cabinet to discuss the reshuffle at the beginning of the session, and when the cabinet rejected his request he resigned.

Reshuffle Said 'Constitutional'

NC0709195994 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Following a cabinet session that ended at 2115 today, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said that the president of the republic maintained that today's cabinet session should not look into the cabinet reshuffle, as that is a matter that falls under the purview of the president of the republic and the prime minister.

The cabinet, al-Hariri pointed out, did not discuss Minister Mirhij's resignation. I and his excellency the president will discuss that later. Al-Hariri said that the cabinet reshuffle was conducted in a constitutional matter. He added that there are many interpretations involved, noting that Minister Mirhij has not been dismissed.

The prime minister said that the matter of Construction and Development Department employees was not discussed.

Israelis Shell Villages, Arrest Inhabitants

NC0709171594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces today shelled the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills, Mlita, Jabal Safi, al-Luwayzah, and al-Jabal al-Akhdar with artillery.

According to security sources in the occupied border strip, a joint Lahd-Israeli patrol encircled Dibbin, searched houses in the village, and arrested citizens 'Ali Dahir Dahir, Tawfiq Husayn Salimah, and Salimah's wife Shammah Ibrahim. The three were accused of cooperating with the resistance and taken to al-Khiyam Prison.

According to the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY, the Zionist occupation forces burned over 70 percent of the forest area surrounding al-Qantarah. Al-Qantarah villagers have called on the president, prime minister, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and international organizations to bring an end to Israel's attacks on their village and other parts of the south.

As Israel's siege of Arnun continues, the inhabitants are suffering severe shortages of food, water, and medicine. Amal Movement official Hasan al-Faqih has called on the government to get in touch with major powers with a view to ending this siege.

Sha'ban Interviewed on Middle East Developments

NC0209103094 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Aug 94 p 5

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the leader of Lebanon's "Tawhid Islamic Movement" have an exclusive interview to the TEHRAN TIMES.

Question: How do you assess the Jordan-Israeli compromise?

Answer: The Jordanian government is like any other Arab country. The first step was taken by Anwar al-Sadat, then we saw Yasir 'Arafat and now King Husayn wants the dream of his ancestors to come true. All of them are imperialist agents. The imperialists brought them (to power) to finish off the Palestinian problem and to create and strengthen the Zionist entity. I think other Arab countries would joint this conspiracy, especially Morocco and the Persian Gulf states. Syria has rejected this (compromise) and maintains that peace should be just and fair. We do not know this "just and fair" when Palestine is to be dealt the finished blow.

Q: What steps can Jordan Islamic parties take towards the Jordan-Israeli compromise in view of their active presence in the country's political scenes especially in parliament?

A: Most of Jordan Islamic parties are against this so-called peace, but it should be borne in mind that the Jordanian government is tribal in character and King Husayn controls most of these tribes. When Husayn returned from his Washington trip, he looked happy, and this indicates that he was successful in putting an end to the Palestinian struggle against the Zionists.

I think Jordan Islamic parties need time to emerge as an Islamic opposition and influence the Jordanian government with whom the U.S. and the Zionist regime are quite pleased at the moment.

Q: What steps the "Tawhid Islamic Movement" of Lebanon has taken for unity between Lebanon's' Shiite and Sunni Muslims? [sentence as published]

A: Necessary steps have been taken for creating good relations between all Islamic Movements in Lebanon. But, in my opinion the realization of unity is not an easy job because of sectarian, ethic and party prejudices, which regrettable seem to be more deep-rooted than Islam.

Q: Which organization and groups are against Shiite-Sunni unity in Lebanon, and what efforts has the "Towhid Islamic Movement" made to counter the divisive tendencies?

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A: In Lebanon groups do not exist that could publicly say, "We are against Islamic unity". But practically this unity and affinity is viewed and rejected by them from the angle of religious and sectarianism. The topic of unity in Koranic and no one can reject it. However when Islamic schools accuse each other of "Kafr" and heresy, they cannot think of unity.

Q: What is your opinion about the Cairo Conference on Population and Development? What position have the Sunni 'Ulama taken in this regard?

A: This (Cairo) conference intends to turn the Islamic region into a secular bloc, and to make this possible it wants that all Islamic values and sanctities be violated. It wants to start from the point of population control, so that imperialism can overcome its fear for population growth in the Muslim world.

In addition, the Cairo Conference wants to promote irreligiousness like we find in the West, it wants to popularize such sordid practices as adultery and homosexuality, which in the view of the West are the best means of population control as they lead to AIDS and other diseases that kill millions of people around the world.

In fact, it is part of a plan to corrupt the sacred Islamic society which has pure foundations.

The Sunni 'Ulama have taken a principled position in this regard and have opposed it—like Egypt's al-Azhar Theological School.

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Foreign Minister Discusses Peace Process

'Liberated' Jerusalem Required

JN0809070294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Amsterdam—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his delegation arrived in The Hague from London last night on a working visit during which he will meet with senior Netherlands officials.

Before leaving London yesterday, al-Shar' received Arab and foreign reporters at the invitation of the foreign press association in London. Questions dealt with the development of the peace process.

Answering a question on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that the period of withdrawal from the Golan should last for three years, al-Shar' said that Syria calls for a comprehensive and just peace in the region based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which are the basis of the Madrid peace conference, and on the basis of the land-for-peace formula.

Al-Shar' added: There will be no peace with Syria without full withdrawal from the Golan. In our view, the period of full withdrawal should not last for years because this is not necessary from a practical or logistical viewpoint.

Al-Shar' noted that the longer the period of full withdrawal the more remote the factors of peace will be come.

Answering a question on whether the solution on the Syrian track will be at the expense of the Lebanese track, the foreign minister said: On the contrary, we in Syria will not accept a peace that ignores the rights of Lebanon and full Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanese territory. At the same time, we believe that the Lebanese will not accept a solution that does not take into consideration the Syrian stand, which calls for realizing a just and comprehensive peace.

Answering a question on the London newspaper THE INDEPENDENT's conclusion that there might be a warm peace with Israel, al-Shar' said: The question is not up to governments to decided if the peace is warm or cool. It is up to peoples to decide if peace will be warm, cool, or fragile. The Foreign Minister added: If the terms of this peace are fair and balanced, it will be possible to have a peace that will create a new atmosphere in the region acceptable to peoples and not just signed by the governments.

Answering a question on why President al-Asad will not visit Jerusalem and meet with Rabin, the foreign minister answered: He will visit Jerusalem when it is liberated. He said: High-level meetings have nothing to do with peace because, rather than make peace, such meetings come as a result of peace. He added: Those who demand such meetings must first work seriously to remove obstacles preventing them; namely, ending the occupation and evacuating the settlements. This is the logical path that leads to a real peace in the region.

Offers 'Warm' Peace

JN0809074994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Report by Huda al-Husayni in London]

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who is on an official visit to London, has spoken of Syria's firm principles, which call for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on UN resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

At a news conference and in several other statements, the Syrian foreign minister said: Syria is prepared to offer Israel a warm peace, including full diplomatic relations between the two countries, in exchange for full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Despite the lack of progress on the Syrian-Israeli track in the peace negotiations, the minister expressed optimism that peace will be realized by the end of this year. He said: If this is not realized, it will not be because of us.

Al-Shar' blamed Jordan's King Husayn and Palestinian National Authority President Yasir 'Arafat because they participated in ending Arab coordination. However, al-Shar' added that he will not pause for long at this issue because Syria wants a comprehensive peace in the Arab-Israeli settlement, which is now shrunk to include only the Syrian and Lebanese aspirations.

Al-Shar' rejected proposals that it is possible for Lebanon to reach agreement with Israel without Syria. He said: We are speaking about a full peace for full withdrawal and therefore, the talk about a partial withdrawal is a waste of time.

Speaking about the congruence between the Syrian and Lebanese track, he said: We will not accept a peace that ignores the rights of Lebanon, and the Lebanese will not accept a separate solution that does not take the Syrian stand into consideration. This is in line with the Madrid formula.

Al-Shar' said: The Israelis are placing unjust terms on Lebanon, stipulating a withdrawal over a period of nine months during which the resistance weapons in the south will be taken away. These terms could lead to the outbreak of a new Lebanese civil war because the resistance will not allow the Lebanese Army to take away its arms before the end of the occupation and will regard its action as a sort of treason and a plot. If the Lebanese Army finds that the resistance does not help reach a peaceful settlement, this means resuming civil war.

On the timetable for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan over a period of three years, al-Shar' said: This period will complicate matters and there is no need for it to take years but must be effected quickly so that the factors of peace will not become remote.

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Talking about a warm peace, al-Shar' wants to reach out to Israeli public opinion, which he says has begun to be convinced that Syria will never accept a partial withdrawal. He added: There is a realization in Israel that peace cannot be realized without Syria and the Israeli people now realize that there can be no peace without full withdrawal from the Golan.

Al-Shar' did not rule out an agreement making the Golan a demilitarized territory but said that arrangements between the two sides must be on equal basis.

At the news conference, an Israeli reporter from the HA'ARETZ newspaper asked him when Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will visit Jerusalem. Al-Shar' answered: When it is liberated.

Full Withdrawal From Golan 'Basic Condition'

JN0809083994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Our Peace Terms Are Clear," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in its editorial: Syria has sufficiently emphasized that peace is an objective. Peace, however, is the antithesis of the capitulation which Israel tries to impose on all Arabs.

The newspaper adds: Syria has been faithful to the peace initiative, to the international sponsorship of the logic of peace, and to the UN resolutions that clearly point to both the concept of peace and to the means of implementing and attaining peace.

AL-BA'TH explains: All that has thus far taken place has prompted Syria to draw the conclusion that Israel seeks to humiliate and subdue the Arabs, either by singling them out or through military pressure and other forms of aggression, which the generals of Israel have mastered. The paper adds: It must be recalled anew that the Syrian-U.S. summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton gave a clear Syrian answer to the concept and priorities of peace and also to the conditions for peace. Only real peace can return rights to their owners.

AL-BA'TH believes that what Israel has concluded with certain parties will not achieve the aspired peace, nor will it bring about the elements of a lasting peace. This is because the conditions for such peace are still Israeli ones, and the Arab nation refuses to be a captive of personal whims and interests.

Concluding, the paper says: Israel knows well that Syria, in particular, does not seek a hasty solution that will give Israel both the land and peace while denying the Arabs the right to their territories and depriving future Arab generations of the right to the kind of peace they will enjoy.

Discussing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements on the Golan, the newspaper TISHRIN says: These statements evoke astonishment and dissatisfaction. Rabin is not only circumventing the substance of the peace process; he is also rearranging priorities regarding the elements of this process in a way that serves both Israeli interests and its objective of keeping the occupied Arab territories.

TISHRIN adds: Observers note that Rabin defined a time period to normalize relations [with Syria] without deciding on the withdrawal from the Golan or southern Lebanon. According to Rabin's recent statements, this means that the land-for-peace principle has been reversed. This was coupled with a shy reference to the issue of land, as if withdrawal is not a basic element or a top priority in the peace process.

In this regard, the paper continues: The Israeli logic is a reversed one. All signs show that these Israeli ideas and proposals aim to continue Israel's maneuvering and deceptive policy. The paper asserts that peace cannot be achieved by circumventing the resolutions of international legitimacy or the elements of a just and comprehensive solution.

TISHRIN explains that while making every effort to render the peace process a success and save it from the current stalemate, Syria is fully responding to the requirements of the real and aspired peace that will end the occupation and move the region to an era of stability and safety.

The paper emphasizes that the world has attested to the credibility and soundness of the Syrian position. Syria will not accept anything less than the return of the entire Golan and southern Lebanon because this is a basic condition for establishing peace.

Discussing the peace of the brave, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: If the Israeli officials really want to confirm their good intentions toward peace, they must frankly announce their acceptance of a full withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, the western al-Biqa', and all other occupied territories.

The paper adds: Continuing the deception, the making of statements that lack any substance, and the search for secret corridors is no longer useful. The peace process is still at square one, and is becoming more complex and heading for the unknown. This stresses the need to quickly implement the basis of a just and comprehensive peace. Such peace is guaranteed by the Madrid Conference basis, led by the Security Council resolutions, which, alone can achieve the aspired objective of the peace process and establish both the security and stability that the international community calls for.

AL-THAWRAH expresses the conviction that the chances for separate settlements are no longer valid for local consumption. Facts have also shown that partial solutions will keep the region liable to explosion, thus wasting the current peace opportunity.

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Concluding, the paper says: Peace means an end to both occupation and aggression. It also means a response to the Arab people's legitimate rights. Peace will only be established if it is coupled with dignity. Thus, peace can only be the peace of the brave that Syria has called for and worked honestly to achieve.

Press Views Rabin Statements on Secret Talks

JN0709070394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Press review]

[Text] In an editorial today, TISHRIN notes the continued Israeli intransigence, pointing to [Israeli Prime Minister] Yitzhaq Rabin's statement in which he rejected the U.S. proposal to resume talks with Syria in Washington. Rabin said that if these talks resume, the Syrians will immediately demand a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In later statements, Rabin said he believes the only way to achieve progress on the Syrian track is to hold secret talks.

TISHRIN says: The Washington talks, which, together with the Madrid Conference, were based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace formula, have constituted, and continue to constitute, a complexity for the Israeli rulers. These talks have not achieved any progress because of Israel's intransigent positions and its quest to undermine the Madrid Conference and its principles, which stipulate a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

TISHRIN says: Syria understands very well Israel's gimmicks and procrastinating and delaying methods. Syria adheres to the just and comprehensive solution and persistently refuses to be pushed into Israel's schemes and separate deals, which confirmed to all the Arabs that they do not guarantee even the most basic rights. Instead, such deals entrench occupation and give Israel a free hand to Judaize the Arab land and fill it with settlements.

TISHRIN concludes. Since the Israeli rulers are fully aware of the principled and firm Syrian stand, they are avoiding the Washington talks. They are also avoiding the UN Security Council resolutions and their requirements. They, at the same time, insist that the clock is ticking, although it is they and not Syria who are placing obstacles and hurdles on the path of the peace process and preventing the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Peace cannot be achieved without Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon, without the precise implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, and without establishing the international law as the only terms of reference.

On the same subject, AL-BA'TH says: The Israeli prime minister started, once again, to set impossible conditions for the peace process. He claimed that secret talks can achieve progress and that withdrawal from the Golan Heights is linked to normalization of relations with Syria, without referring to the complete withdrawal.

AL-BA'TH believes such statements, which usually precede any new tour by the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region, confirm that Israel continues to stick to its position that rejects the peace process and its bases.

AL-BA'TH says: By setting such conditions, Rabin continues his evasion of the requirements of peace. He also advocates what he calls a plebiscite on withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which means that he is contradicting the peace initiative on the one hand, and is resorting to methods which he is not entitled to, on the other.

AL-BA'TH stresses that a plebiscite on the Golan Heights is, in the first place, rejected in form and context because it concerns Syrian territory that Israel occupied by force. Israeli must relinquish them in compliance with the UN resolutions and what was stipulated in the peace initiative.

AL-BA'TH adds: The events of the peace process, since it was started and until now, confirm that the half-solutions and the breakthroughs that occurred through the separate solutions cannot lead to lasting peace. If Israel is seeking to impose hegemony on the Middle East, Syria will remain the strongest advocate of Arab rights and will not allow such hegemony, which threatens the entire Arab future.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: Syria is working for a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. Its commitment to the peace initiative confirms that it adheres to this option, without which the region will never see stability and security.

In a commentary today, AL-THAWRAH says Israel does not wish to see a balanced peace progressing in the region because such a peace, with its just and comprehensive framework, involves commitments which contradict its schemes that aim to maintain the occupation of Arab territory and continue settlement activities.

The paper adds: This fact was confirmed by the events and developments in the peace process. It was also confirmed by the nature of the Israeli position on the concept of peace itself.

AL-THAWRAH says: For almost three years now, Israel has been dealing with the peace process using a logic that wishes to see the process end in incomplete solutions, which contradict peace. According to these solutions, Israel would get everything and not offer anything in return. Israel ignores that the premise on which the process was based, and which Syria accepted to join that process in a constructive and effective way, is the return of every grain of occupied Arab soil in exchange for peace.

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AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel, through statements by its officials, is now reaffirming the same position. Its officials are trying to turn the peace formula upside down and demand the achievement of peace before announcing that they agree to complete withdrawal. At the same time, they do not hesitate to play around with the withdrawal principle and establish an illogical link between it and what they call their security needs, in order to diminish the concept of peace and to re-form it in the manner that suits them.

AL-THAWRAH adds that the conditions, which Yitzhaq Rabin restated the day before yesterday, on the limited self-rule authority and the Israeli explanation of withdrawal from the self-rule area, show the nature of the settlement which Israel is seeking to achieve though the policy of pressures, extortion, and threats. Rabin is asking the self-rule authority to serve only as a tool to suppress the intifadah and considers the Oslo agreement a means to organize the deployment of the occupation troops, and not their withdrawal from the self-rule area. He uses the Israeli security requirements as a pretext.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Peace is an indivisible whole. The cornerstone for such a peace is based on two conditions: Complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories to the 4 June 1967 borderlines and the full recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. When Israel insists on violating this understanding and ignoring its facts and requirements, it, effectively, torpedoes the international efforts to activate the peace process, reaffirms its rejection of the just and comprehensive peace, and confirms that it lacks the intention to achieve it.

Israeli Response to Peace Requirements Urged

JN0709161094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Syria's stand and constant principles toward a just and comprehensive peace in the region constitute the backbone of the efforts to render the peace process a success and to extricate it from the stalemate it is facing. In contrast, the Israeli stand remains a big obstacle to a just and comprehensive peace. Israel continues its policy of placing obstacles and refusing to commit itself to the elements of a just and comprehensive peace.

The rulers of Israel, who everyday reiterate that they will keep the Golan and southern Lebanon and adhere to partial solutions and separate deals, are not only placing obstacles before the peace process, they are also playing, in a serious and destructive manner, with the region's situation and future. The Israelis' statements and stands prove that they are still very far from the bases of the desired true peace. They are still wagering on illusions disproved by Syria through its commitment to the formula of the Madrid conference, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the land-for-peace principle. This shows that Syria enjoys a credibility and seriousness in its stands and efforts to achieve peace and that Israel lacks a sound and objective policy and is trying to divert the peace process from its set goals and objectives.

From this premise, the world is focusing its attention on Syria's role in promoting the peace process and on its constant and principled stands. The world testifies to the fact that through these stands, Syria is invulnerable and at the same time, it is the key to peace and is seriously seeking to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in return for comprehensive peace. Syria rejects compromise solutions and the fragmentation of fateful issues. It has nothing to hide.

Everyone knows that Syria does what it says it will do, and when it decides on something it implements it. It will not make concessions or bargains and will not relinquish its rights. The Golan is Syrian Arab territory and must fully return to its kinsfolk, owners, and motherland just like southern Lebanon. Indeed, Resolution 425 stipulates Israel's immediate, full, and unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Proceeding from this, peace cannot be achieved through maneuvering or sweet talk as the Israelis are doing. They are creating furors with their contradictory statements and are intentionally fishing in troubled water. Peace requires actions, responsible and serious practices, a response to the elements of a just and comprehensive peace, and above all, an Israeli commitment to a full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. This is because Syria will not accept anything less than the return of the Golan, the occupier's retreat from southern Lebanon and the western al-Biqa', and the pullback of the Israeli occupation forces to the lines of 4 June 1967.

Only when it announces its commitment to all this would Israel have taken a step on the real road to a just and comprehensive peace and would have abandoned its policy of maneuvers and deception and its proposals to hold on to the Arab territories. Moreover, it would have responded to the essence of the peace process which is based on ending the Israeli occupation, securing rights and justice, ending oppression and aggression, and consecrating the resolutions of international legitimacy. All this has specifically been stipulated by UN Security Council resolutions, UN charters, the Madrid conference resolutions, and in the U.S. initiative based on the land-for-peace principle.

Paper Discusses Economic Reforms

JN0609095494 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 13 Aug 94 p 8

[Article by Jihad al-Na'san]

[Text] There are many issues preoccupying Syrian economists and businessmen, taking up a major part of their attention. But we will concentrate on only two major

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issues that seem to concern everyone and on which there are a number of different opinions.

The Reform Trend

The process of economic reform in Syria has covered a lot of ground. And, as everyone admits, Syria has been able during the past few years to solve many of the difficult economic problems it faced and to come out with successful solutions that have helped produce a solid and strong economy.

The positive results of the economic reform process are acknowledged by everyone. These results did not come out of a vacuum, but were the result of a well-studied policy, which took into consideration political, economic, and social factors. The economic reform process acquired several characteristics. It was a gradual process that took slow, but firm and wise steps toward its objective. Perhaps, what singles out this process is that the decisions taken on it were unanimous. The government was able to turn the different viewpoints into positions of strength. Through the different viewpoints, it was able to overcome negative points and to achieve many positive gains which were interpreted into a reality.

It can be said with confidence that the reform process has borne positive fruits. The amendment of foreign trade regulations has secured commodities for the citizens at suitable prices, overcome many of the constraints, and provided industrial factories and establishments as well as farmers with capital goods at suitable prices also. All this has helped increase exports and stimulate the role of the private sector and increase its share in trade.

Encouragement of investments has opened the door wide before local, Arab, and foreign capital. The most important result of this policy is that it has stopped the depletion of local capital by creating suitable investment prospects for it and encouraged the repatriation of expatriate capital, especially by Syrian businessmen and expatriates who proved their ability to invest in an atmosphere of strong international rivalry.

Creating a real increase in production and giving all citizens of all sectors the opportunity to contribute to development are among the good results of this policy. We have every right to be proud of the actual increases in production, especially in the field of agriculture. So, thanks to this policy, scores of companies and factories have been established. All that has taken place without affecting the public sector, which has also developed and increased its investments, and achieved the general desired aim; namely, that the country needs us all and that there are new fields in which all can participate in a fair and honest competition whose aim is to increase and improve national production. The question posed is: Since we all agree on this point, where are the differences?

Economists say that the reforms are like a snowball, which starts rolling downhill small in size and slow in speed, but as it rolls it grows in size and gathers speed. They believe that this is linked to the nature of the reforms themselves. They contend that slow speed in the latter stages of the reforms will have negative effects on the reform process itself. It will affect the results and lose many of the positive fruits. In Syria, there are those who believe that continuing the economic reform at a slow speed is essential to avoid negative effects. On the other hand, there are others who say that the problem is not time. In other words, we must go ahead with the necessary measures which guarantee positive results, while taking social and other factors into consideration. In the context of this opinion, we must respond to the demands and exigencies of reform in order to avoid negative effects.

These people cite an example by saying that the lack of a stock exchange market and the inability of the banking system to attract the funds of small savers has encouraged the swindlers and sick minded to act immorally. And, even when some of them had good intentions for true investment, they still faced real obstacles.

The supporters of this opinion say that any long delay in taking measures will harm the reform process itself. For instance, it is not possible to attract large foreign investments unless there is a banking system that can offer sophisticated banking services to investors who are used to banking systems that operate with great speed and efficiency.

International Changes

The second point on which the discussion and dialogue revolves is Syria's future role and position under the present international changes and the emergence of new economic blocs. Economists believe that the Syrian economy can cope with future challenges and that the country's past performances are sufficient proof of the strength of this economy and its ability to adjust to the new world changes.

The Syrian economy has managed, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, to prepare the ground which provides it with the strength and ability to cope with the new changes. There is an established fact which everyone is aware of; namely, Syria is strong economically and that it will continue to be so in the future, just as it is strong politically. Our economists should continue to look for more points of strength and to interpret President al-Asad's directives into a living and tangible reality.

Economists emphasize that we have a great deal of potential that can be exploited. However, this can only be done by exerting more effort and taking further steps to help increase production, especially since we have established a solid policy based on the principles of economic diversity and general participation in the construction and development process. The dialogue

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now revolves around the means of coping with future challenges. There are those who call for closing doors and turning inward to avoid the negative effects resulting from the lack of balance between the big powers and the developing states and the trend toward achieving the interests of the big at the expense of the small. But the majority of our economists believe otherwise. They believe that a strong economy can compete. There are always strong points in the economy that can be exploited to achieve the desired objective. Economists propose looking for the causes that limit the ability of our producers to compete and to try to eliminate them before entering the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. They also propose making maximum use of the facilities and exceptions afforded by this agreement rather than resorting to isolation and introversion.

These are some of the economic issues on which a dialogue and discussion are taking place. This does mean not that other issues are less important. It just means that the achievement of a new start for the economy depends on our position on these two issues.

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India

PRC Defense Minister Arrives on 6-Day Visit

BK0709130394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] The defense minister of China, General Chi Haotian, arrived in New Delhi today on a six-day visit to India. He was received at the airport by the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, and senior officials of the Defense Ministry. General Haotian [as heard] will meet Prime Minister Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, Commerce Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, and Chief Minister of Maharashtra Mr. Sharad Pawar. They will discuss matters related to defense, trade, and commerce.

Commentary Hails Outcome of Rao Visit to Vietnam

BK0809121594 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Commentary by Shastri Ramachandran]

[Text] The traditionally strong relations between India and Vietnam have been boosted into a new phase with wider and deeper dimensions during the three-day visit of the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, to Hanoi. The strong ties on the political front—which have endured many international currents and changes—were infused over the new economic content, signifying a landmark in India's evolving Asian policy. The new mechanism created and the several agreements signed between the governments and the private sectors of the two countries point to a new partnership with promise of greater dividends.

This was not the first visit of an Indian prime minister to Vietnam, nor was it the first visit by Mr. Rao. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi as prime minister had been to Vietnam in 1988 and Mr. Rao himself had made a trip when he was the external affairs minister in 1982. But this visit of Mr. Rao from 5 to 7 September signals a major effort to achieve what was described by the two leaders as a quantum jump in cooperation. This reflects successful pursuit of two streams of Indian foreign policy, aimed at keeping in step with the post-Cold War scenario at the global level and at the same time reaching out in the Asian neighborhood to strengthen economic cooperation. New Delhi has recently taken major initiatives to revive its traditional ties with the countries of the former socialist bloc in Europe. At the same time, given the reality that Asia is the emerging economic power, India has sought to enlarge its role to take advantage of the changes sweeping the Asia-Pacific region.

Vietnam's regional and international standing has radically changed for the better in the last three years. The collapse of the Soviet Union and Asia's emergence as a valued region for international investment have widened Vietnam's international and political contacts. New Delhi's timing for strengthening economic links with Vietnam could not have been more opportune. Vietnam's economic renovation program for the last eight years and its greater acceptance in the international arena since 1989 will lend a new momentum to its relations with India. This was amply conveyed in the Vietnamese view of Mr. Rao's visit as an important development in the history of India-Vietnam relationship. The prime minister of Vietnam, Mr. Vo Van Kiet, who had wide-ranging talks with Mr. Rao and also met the business delegation accompanying the Indian prime minister, has accepted an invitation to visit India soon.

A joint statement on Mr. Rao's visit expressed satisfaction at the growing multifaceted cooperation, which constitutes a positive contribution to peace, cooperation, and development in the region. The four agreements signed between India and Vietnam during Mr. Rao's visit should be viewed from this perspective. Two of the agreements are on avoidance of double taxation and easing of visa regulations. A third agreement is on consultations between foreign ministers of the two countries, implying greater interaction on regional and international issues. The fourth agreement is on defense cooperation.

The two countries also decided to reactivate the Joint Working Commission and set up four working groups to accelerate the pace of economic cooperation. Apart from these, the business delegation—which accompanied the prime minister and expects Indian investment in Vietnam to rise to $500 million—signed as many as nine agreements on joint ventures. Another eight to 12 joint ventures are expected to be initiated in the next six months.

Political issues were not ignored. Mr. Rao was assured by Mr. Kiet and Mr. Do Muoi, general secretary of communist party, that Vietnam would support India's claim for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. They also talked about the continuing efforts to ensure peace and stability in the region. Though the focus was on economic achievements, the political results were no less rewarding for the delegation led by Mr. Rao.

Iran

Khamene'i Says Israel Should 'Disappear'

NC0709124094 Paris AFP in English 1140 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept 7 (AFP)—Iran's spiritual guide Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on Wednesday [7 September] renewed his opposition to the US-sponsored Middle East peace process, saying Israel would have to disappear.

Khamene'i blasted the United States for "pressuring" Iran to join the "dishonorable" peace process, but vowed his country would resist it.

"America considers Iran the main obstacle to the capitulation and that's why we are under pressure," he told a public meeting. "We say once and for all that Israel should disappear."

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Iran staunchly opposes peace with Israel and supports Islamic groups in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, like HAMAS and Islamic Jihad.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Tuesday [6 September] accused Japan and Europe of failing to put enough pressure on Iran which Israel accuses of supporting terrorism.

Spokesman Responds to U.S. Naval Commander's Remarks

LD0809102794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman, responding to remarks made by the commander of the U.S. naval force in the Persian Gulf, has said: The experience of the nations in the region shows that America itself is the cause of dissension between regional countries.

Douglas Katz, commander of U.S. naval force in the Persian Gulf, who has just been replaced by a new commander, had said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is busy strengthening its defensive capabilities, and the threat of Iran is on the increase in the region.

In reply to these remarks, Mr. Mohammadi said today: Those claims are made at a time when America's naval fleet, with its presence in the Persian Gulf, is the main cause of tension and unrest in the region.

Commenting on the motive behind such remarks, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said: America, in attempting to find a market for more weapons and to increase its presence and influence in the region, by making provocative remarks, is constantly attempting to undermine trust between countries in the region.

Yazdi Says American Held Could Request 'Amnesty'

NC0709163094 Paris AFP in English 1540 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept 7 (AFP)—An American businessman jailed in Iran two years ago on spying charges could be pardoned, Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi hinted Wednesday [7 September].

Yazdi told a press conference that Milton Meyer, 60, would have to serve out his sentence "like anyone else."

"But there is a possibility that he could ask for amnesty, if he pleases," said the chief justice.

There has been no official announcement of a trial for Meyer, who was arrested in 1992 for alleged contacts with foreign intelligence services and illegally setting up businesses.

He was also accused of selling "sensitive economic information" to foreign companies, making hundreds of thousands of dollars.

According to newspaper reports, Meyer was related by marriage to the head of the former secret police, SAVAK, General Nassiri, who was executed immediately after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Population Control by 'Legitimate' Means Urged

NC0809074394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The UN-sponsored International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], which is being attended by most of the UN member countries, is being held in Cairo. This world conference is one of several held in recent years to discuss the environment, development, and human rights.

Since 1982, with the publication of a report by the Tokyo Club, the destruction of the environment, the population explosion, the process of industrial development, the problem of malnutrition, and the depletion of fuels have been considered the major threats to international peace and security. These are international problems in that no country, large or small, can solve them on its own.

Previously the greatest threats to international peace and security were military threats, the use of weapons of mass destruction, and aggressive wars. But while military threats continue, a series of nonmilitary threats is also endangering the world.

Until two centuries ago, every 75 years some 250 million people were added to the world's population. But it now takes just three years to chalk up that figure. In the early 19th century the world's population was about 1 billion; it took thousands of years to reach this figure. But since then industrialization and progress in medicine have led to a more rapid population growth.

In 1950 the population of Africa was half the population of Europe. But by 1985 they were the same; the population of Africa is expected to reach three times that of Europe within the next 30 years.

In addition to its impact on food production, population growth creates acute problems in housing, health, transportation, and food distribution. The poor countries are too densely populated, which leads to war over resources, worsens ethnic friction, fans the flames of social instability, and strengthens foreign expansionism. Population growth among ethnic groups living on common national borders may also increase friction.

The impact of the population explosion on the environment can also threaten national resources. As well as increasing the threat of war over depletable resources such as water, the destruction of the environment threatens economic progress and public health.

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If there is agreement on the need to control population growth there are differences on the method of control because of the different rates of population growth in the various countries and because of cultural and ideological differences. The ICPD, which is being held in Cairo, has become an arena for ideological confrontation, especially over the methods of population control. The Islamic Republic of Iran is among those countries that have advised on and support the use of legitimate and moral methods.

Velayati Interviewed on Bosnia, ICO, ICPD

NC0809062394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Islamabad, Pakistan, by an unidentified Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent in Tehran—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] The foreign ministers of 47 Islamic countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, started consultations in Islamabad yesterday in order to find solutions to the major problems of the world of Islam, above all the Bosnian problem. Our colleagues tried to establish contact with the conference site today for a telephone conversation with Mr. Velayati. I am informed that this contact has been established.

Mr. Velayati?

[Velayati] Yes.

[Correspondent] Good morning.

[Velayati] Good morning.

[Correspondent] Thank you for devoting some time to us. As we said, the major topic on the Islamabad conference's agenda is the situation in Bosnia. In your speech at yesterday's session of the conference, you stressed that the continuation of the embargo on Bosnia is tantamount to support for aggression and genocide. Is there any hope that this time the arms embargo on Bosnia will be lifted?

[Velayati] The lifting of the arms embargo that has been imposed by the UN Security Council is not within power of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. What the ICO does is make decisions within the framework of the world of Islam. The Bosnian problem is an international problem in which not only one Islamic country but other countries too, most of which are not Muslim, are involved. Therefore what the ICO can do and has done so far is coordinate the activities of the Islamic countries in international forums and organize effective support for the Bosnian Muslims among the Islamic countries.

Part of this support has been publicized and part has not. But definitely if anything effective has been done during the past two years for the Bosnian people it has been done by the Islamic countries. And the holding of such sessions has been extremely effective for the adoption and implementation of decisions. And if you see the Bosnian people defending themselves against aggression more powerfully than in the past and able to stand on their own feet, undoubtedly a large part of the credit is due to the assistance of the world Muslims—both in the economic, political, and defense fields.

[Correspondent] Thank you. My next question is about the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] in Cairo. The resolution proposed to this conference by America has met opposition from the Islamic countries and Christian religious circles. Do you think that some of the Western countries will be able to impose their views on this issue on the nations of the world?

[Velayati] As far as we know, approval of resolutions at such conferences is based on a consensus. Also, the great majority of the Islamic countries participating in the ICPD have a uniform stand in defending Islamic values and opposing counter-values and deviations such as abortion and sexual aberrations. Therefore, the chances of the initial proposals by some Western countries aimed at propagating sexual licentiousness are almost nil. They should find a formula that will also include the opinions of Islamic countries as much as possible. Otherwise, no consensus will be reached on the decisions. But even if a unilateral decision is made by some of the influential circles in the United Nations, its implementation by Islamic countries is not compulsory. However, this would further upset international society and it would boomerang on the West. Therefore, we do not think that the Westerners will adopt such a bad policy and be willing to oppose the values prevalent in Islamic countries.

[Correspondent] Thank you for attending this interview.

[Velayati] I thank you too.

Future of Independent Kurdistan Considered

NC0709114094 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 23 Aug 94 p 12

[Political commentary: "The Tripartite Session in Damascus"]

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, and Syria discussed the future of the sovereignty of Iraq over Iraqi Kurdistan. The stress laid by these three countries on preserving the national unity and the territorial integrity of Iraq is due to the conditions created by the Western countries in northern Iraq in the wake of the oil war in the Persian Gulf, which will affect the security of the entire region.

What has transpired in Iraqi Kurdistan reveals the not-so-covert intentions of the Western world. The Poised Hammer forces that provide air cover from Turkish territory to the Iraqi Kurdistan region have generated circumstances that are harmful for the security

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of Turkey and for Iraq's neighbors. This is where the contradiction in Turkey's policy lies. On the one hand, Turkey has security and strategic interests in preserving Iraq's sovereignty over its Kurdistan region, and on the other, it is an ally of the Western world and is forced to take their aims into consideration.

There is no doubt that Turkey stands to gain by preserving a unified Iraq but whether its European allies and the United States consider themselves bound to consideration of Turkey's security interests is debatable. As regards Kurdistan, there are certain issues that, if not tackled, may result in certain unforeseeable consequences in the region in future. The Western world has for many years expressed interest in the Kurdish minority in the region and it appears that it has gained the opportunity to translate some of its intentions into concrete form.

Kurdish politico-military groups do not have the necessary coordination but for various reasons they consider the conditions more conducive than before to the establishment of a Kurdish state. Factional differences have arisen on the control of most of the areas of Iraqi Kurdistan between two groups; namely, the Islamic Party and the Kurdish Democratic Party of Mas'ud Barzani on the one hand and Workers' Party of Kurdistan [PKK] on the other. If these can be ignored, the current set of circumstances inside Iraqi Kurdistan have made the region more favorable from the international point of view to demographic changes in the region.

However, in this short period, the current government has proved how vulnerable it is on the domestic and regional level. The power struggle has intensified in Iraqi Kurdistan to the extent that the possibility of defeat has made the West pessimistic about bringing any order into an independent Kurdish state. In any case, with the mediation of France and following Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani's meetings in Paris, it appears that a semblance of an accord more in line with the West's objectives might be achieved, even though the main problem persists, as there has been no cessation of hostilities between the two sides.

What is important here is the realization of the fact by the Iraqi Kurd leadership that the West has decided at this juncture that it has changed the political geography of the region in this manner, and that it can do so again by coordination with trends that are beyond their jurisdiction and resources. It is obvious that on the pretext of support for the rights of minorities, which is the veneer concealing the objectives of the Western world, is also being used in Iraqi Kurdistan. Ostensibly, the West and the political setup and parties in Iraqi Kurdistan have found common ground on which they have based their program.

The position that is being propounded has been construed by the countries in the region—which are concerned. It is a Kurdistan with an ethnic Kurdish identity in northern Iraq, which they envision as a precursor to the secession of Kurdish-inhabited areas and that is why they oppose it so vehemently. The Damascus session is in fact for the purpose of discussing such issues of distinctive sensitivity. The support of three important countries in the region for the preservation of the national unity of Iraq is not for Iraq's national and security interests but the national interests of these three countries have assumed greater significance. In fact, their particular needs demand that despite the varied viewpoints of the regional countries a common stance must be achieved.

Of course, the deduction that the West wants such a plan to materialize under all circumstances is not correct. This is because the Kurdish issue is part of a multipronged plan that is aimed more toward access to Baghdad rather than the establishment of a Kurdish government. If circumstances occur which bring about a change in Iraq's hierarchy in accordance with the wishes of the United States and Europe, and the Saddam Husayn regime gets a favorable replacement, the issue of support for Kurdistan would most likely be ruled out, even though the topic would not be forgotten and would be kept in mind to use later to ensure favored changes or impose them on the region.

This is based on the premise that if in future Middle East peace talks, the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad enters into the final accord, the Middle East will be confronted with more serious developments which cannot be correctly gauged at this juncture.

There is no doubt that if the regional countries do not have a realistic assessment of the complexities of the Kurdish question, and continue to labor under their delusions and do not pay the necessary attention to the social and cultural rights of the ethnic minorities in their country, they will become more vulnerable.

In this regard, the position of Turkey is more sensitive than all others as the PKK has easily been able to forge relations with some politico-military elements in northern Iraq and the Turkish Army has proved that it is not capable of resolving the problem by military means. The Turkish echelons have also not been able to display the necessary political acumen on the basis of which we can state that in crisis conditions they will be able to give priority to their national interests over their political relations and considerations with the West.

In any case, the Kurdish issue in the current regional and international circumstances is more in conformity with the West's criteria than those of the regional countries. What is happening in Iraqi Kurdistan—even though it is not acceptable for the countries of the region—is quite appropriate for the Western powers, as it envisions the kind of freedom and democracy to some extent, which is in keeping with their concepts, despite the intense factional clashes and the difficult situation in which the Kurdish people are embroiled. It is precisely for this reason that it is being said that the Kurdish issue can transcend Iraqi territory and possibly spill into the neighboring countries.

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Central Bank Governor Comments on Bond Issuance

NC0709130294 Paris AFP in English 0913 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept 7 (AFP)—Iran is to resort to public borrowing for the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution to finance development projects amid economic troubles, Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli said Wednesday [7 September].

'Adeli, quoted by newspapers here, said Iran's state-owned banks had been authorised to issue bonds to finance certain industrial and infrastructural projects.

These bonds, baptised "partnership deeds", will return a fixed interest with variable bonus. The deeds, with or without a name, will be offered on the country's stock market.

Religious leaders have approved the move which is considered to be an important step in the free-market policies of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, introduced in 1989, the daily ABRAR said.

After the revolution issuing state and other treasure bonds was considered a usurious practice and was banned from the country's Islamic banking system, introduced in 1979.

The first bonds will be issued shortly to raise 75 billion rials (30 million dollars) towards financing a major urban project by Tehran municipality. The project will take off on September 23 by the country's main state bank, Bank-e Melli, 'Adeli said.

Other projects could be launched on borrowed public money if the first bid proves successful, he added.

The decision comes amid economic difficulties in Iran caused by a sharp drop in the price of oil, the country's main source of hard currency.

A rise in the level of short-term foreign debts forced the government to cancel many development projects this year, except those in critical sectors such as oil.

Public borrowing promises local administrations a new source of cash for such projects, experts said.

It will also offer the government an alternative source of cash which is heavily in debt to the Central Bank.

Pakistan

Bhutto Discusses Kashmir Issue With Butrus-Ghali

BK0709150294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] The UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus-Ghali, and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto have discussed various possible approaches to resolve the Kashmir issue. The discussions came during the meeting the UN secretary general had with the prime minister in Islamabad today. The prime minister raised several questions of immediate importance to Pakistan with special emphasis on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The situation in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Somalia also came up for discussion. The secretary general greatly appreciated Pakistan's contribution to the activities of the United Nations, especially peacekeeping efforts the world over. Later, the prime minister hosted a lunch in honor of the secretary general.

UN Chief Assures Help

BK0809083194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Dr. Butrus-Ghali, the UN secretary general, has assured Pakistan that he will make sincere efforts to help resolve the Kashmir crisis in view of the grave threat of the escalation of tension in the region. He gave this assurance during a meeting with President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari in Islamabad yesterday. The president raised this issue, saying the continued brutalities by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir have increased restlessness among the Kashmiri people, creating a threat to regional peace and security. The president impressed upon the UN secretary general that only a just settlement of the Kashmir issue can ensure durable peace in South Asia. The president also expressed Pakistan's concern at India's missile program.

During the meeting, President Farooq Leghari and the UN secretary general exchanged views on regional and international issues. Dr. Butrus-Ghali also praised Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's important and courageous step in attending the Cairo conference on population.

The UN secretary general also met several Afghan leaders, during which he announced that the United Nations will restart its peace mission for Afghanistan. Dr. Butrus-Ghali disclosed after the meeting that almost all Afghan leaders have supported the UN peace mission. He, however, clarified that the United Nations will not impose peace on Afghanistan. The world body, he added, can only help in the establishment of peace there. The UN secretary general urged the Afghan leaders to agree to the interim proposal for peace in Kabul, so that humanitarian aid can be reached to the people there. The Afghan leaders who met the UN chief included Pir Seyyed Gilani, Ayatollah Mohseni, Hashmetollah Mojaddedi, Engineer Qotboddin Helal, Haji Mengal Hoseyn, and Mowlawi 'Abdol Baqi.

More on Butrus-Ghali Offer

BK0809095694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] The UN secretary general, Mr. Butrus-Ghali, has said he will do everything possible to convince and encourage Pakistan and India to continue dialogue for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir problem. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this morning, he said there is an illusion [as heard] of the situation along the

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Line of Control in Kashmir and that is why the UN will encourage the dialogue between Pakistan and India. He said the Kashmir problem emerged from the partition of the subcontinent and it needs concerted efforts and long negotiations with patience to resolve it. The world body chief said as an honest broker he would be available to encourage dialogue between the two parties on the problem. He said the international community is following with great attention the Kashmir problem as they consider it a very important issue. He said the world needs peace which depends to a great extent on the dialogue between Pakistan and India over the Kashmir issue. He said it is in the interest of the world body that relations between them are good and only with the assistance of the two countries they would be able to promote peace and solve the problem.

About Afghanistan, the UN secretary general categorically stated that Pakistan has an important role to play to restore peace in Afghanistan and no decision in this direction is possible without Pakistan. He said the UN mission in Afghanistan will continue its efforts. Mr. Butrus-Ghali described his talks with President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto, and Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali as extremely useful and constructive. He expressed his gratitude to the government and people of Pakistan for contributing to the UN peacekeeping operations and to the activities of the Security Council.

Japan Reacts Negatively to Nawaz Sharif Statement

BK0809083794 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Sep 94 pp 1, 5

[Report by Murtaza Malik]

[Text] Peshawar, Sept 7—The Japanese Ambassador in Islamabad Kunio Muraoka has said that former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's statement on the atom bomb issue had created a difficult situation for his country's economic assistance to Pakistan.

In an informal chat with The Muslim at a farewell luncheon hosted by former Provincial Minister Salim Saifullah Khan here Wednesday [7 September] said that his country would like to seek a clarification from the government of Pakistan on this vital issue before proceeding further in the field of economic cooperation between the two countries.

He explained that it was not the policy of his country to provide economic assistance to the nations possessing mass destruction weapons. The ex-Prime Minister's categorical claim and his insistence on the subject, he remarked, was a matter of serious concern otherwise the economic collaboration between Pakistan and Japan has been progressing excellently to the mutual benefit of the two countries.

According to the Ambassador's views besides any future assistance programmes and commitments Mian [Mr] Nawaz Sharif's statement could hit some of the ongoing Japanese aided projects as well. The position could only be retrieved if the Japanese government was satisfied with the official explanation by Islamabad.

Ambassador Muraoka said that he had thoroughly enjoyed his four year assignment in Pakistan which helped him make a large number of good friends. During this period, he said, his country had cooperated in several fields and he had every hope of the trend to grow but for the sudden bottlenecks which could not be allowed to go unnoticed. Obviously the Ambassador was referring to the Nawaz Sharif's nuclear bomb claim about which Tokyo had reportedly sought details from its embassy in Islamabad.

It was feared that in case of Japan not being satisfied with Pakistan's clarification on the sensitive issue, the first major setback this country was likely to receive would be in the energy sector for which the documents were said to be almost ready to be signed.

It may be added that under section 3 of the Principles of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) programme, full attention was supposed to be paid to trends in recipient countries, their military expenditures, their development and production of mass destruction weapons including missiles as well as their import and export of arms in order to maintain international peace and stability.

The said the section was said to be the most talked about provision of the principles of the ODA in the official quarters of Japan, connected with the development commitments in Pakistan and now it all depended on how convincingly the government of Pakistan was able to undo the impression created by no less a person than a former Prime Minister of Pakistan. [sentence as published]

Velayati, Bhutto Discuss President's Trip to Tehran

LD0709191794 Tehran IRNA in English 1904 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Islamabad, Sept. 7, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with the Prime Minister of Pakistan Ms. Benazir Bhutto here today. In their meeting Benazir Bhutto emphasized the further development in the relations between the two coutries.

Velayati who is in the Pakistani capital for the foreign ministerial session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization] which opened today, said the forthcoming visit to Tehran by the president of Pakistan would be in the interest of the two countries.

President Faruq Ahmad Leghari is to visit Tehran next Saturday [10 September].

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Foreign Office Says Troops To Remain in Bosnia

BK0709131994 Islamabad THE NATION in English 7 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan will retain its peacekeeping troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina even if other countries pull out their forces, said an official of the Foreign Office on Tuesday [6 September].

Responding to questions by journalists at a briefing on the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] moot, the spokesman said that Pakistan presently has 3,000 troops serving in the UN peacekeeping force in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said the fact that Pakistan considers the arms embargo on Bosnia as illegal is not related to Pakistan contributing its troops for peacekeeping.

He announced categorically that even if other countries pull out their troops from UN peacekeeping forces in Bosnia after the arms embargo is lifted, Pakistan will retain its troops there.

Officials Confer With Iraqi Health Minister

JN0809102694 Baghdad INA in English 0835 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Islamabad, Sep. 8, INA—Iraq's Health Minister Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak met here Speaker of the Pakistani Parliament Yusin Radhi Gilani [name and title as received]

Adverse effects of the 4-year-old blockade imposed on Iraq and the relation between Iraq and the Security Council and the significance of moving for implementing Paragraph 22 of the Resolution 687, especially Iraq has fulfilled its reciprocal commitments, were discussed during the meeting.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mubarak conferred with the Pakistani higher education and education and social affairs ministers.

In this respect, the Pakistani officials showed sympathy with the people of Iraq, expressing hope to lift the blockade soon.

Sri Lanka

Government To Work 'Honestly' To Solve Crisis

BK0709123194 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] The motion to obtain approval for emergency regulations imposed in several divisional secretariat areas in the north and the east, Puttalam, Anuradhapura, and Polonnaruwa Districts [words indistinct] was passed unanimously in the Parliament yesterday.

Winding up the debate, Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga says that the present government would act honestly to find a solution to the ethnic problem in the united Sri Lanka. People have been informed of the political process taken by the government to settle the crisis. It will not enter into any agreement without informing them. Action has been taken to solve practical problems in (?suspending) 29 restricted items in the north. She disclosed that she had discussions more than 100 senior Army officials in the war-torn north on the present situation there. It has been revealed that 30 Armed Forces personnel, 20 policemen, seven fishermen, and several ordinary businessmen are in the custody of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. Measures have been taken to obtain their release. The prime minister said that the people will be greatly affected by the imposition of the emergency regulations unnecessarily for a long period. She added that the government was committed to conduct investigations on assassinations that took place during the period of the last regime and all facts will be disclosed to people. The government will never suppress [word indistinct] by using the rule of law for political advantages.

Prime Minister Says Government Will End War

BK0809112394 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga said that her government will end the war in the north and east and find a negotiated political settlement to the ethnic problem to ensure that the people in those areas should enjoy democratic freedom and will be able to live with dignity. She said that the People's Alliance had promised during the election campaign to provide all facilities to these people. She said that within a fortnight we will be able to fulfill this pledge.

The prime minister made this declaration at the felicitation ceremony organized by the minister for health and social services, A.H.M. Fowzie, on behalf of the Muslim community at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday. She said that soon about 60 Army and police personnel and fishermen detained by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] would be released. The government is dedicated to establishing democratic freedom which had been denied to the people during the last 17 years. She said that the election results have demonstrated the best (?wish) of the people. She reiterated that all sections of the community and all religious denominations would be able to enjoy their rights and freedom.

LTTE Accepts Talks; Negotiator Named

BK0709122694 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has expressed willingness to launch discussions without conditions and (?enduring) a cease-fire to resolve the ethnic problem. A fax message regarding this has been sent by

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LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran with his signature to Defense Secretary General Hamilton Wanasinghe. The message has been sent through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Minister for Power and Energy and Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte points out that a fax message signed by Prabhakaran had been sent informing the Sri Lanka prime minister that he was ready to open discussions. The LTTE leader has praised the action so far taken by the present government to solve this problem. According to Mr. Ratwatte, particular mention has been made with regard to the measures taken by the government to send several essential items for the people in the north by lifting the ban order.

Meanwhile, the government has nominated a civil servant to initiate a dialogue with the LTTE. Senior bureaucrat Lionel Fernando has been asked to work out the modalities for talks with the LTTE. Official sources said that Mr. Fernando—who was once the top civil administrator in the northern peninsula, which is now virtually under LTTE control—is expected to travel to rebel-held territory soon to begin talks. Official sources also said that the move came as Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga received an invitation from LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran to visit Jaffna or send a representative to open negotiations.

Prime Minister To Run in Presidential Election

BK0809044194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] In Sri Lanka today, the prime minister, Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga, was unanimously chosen by the Sri Lanka Freedom Party as its candidate for the coming presidential polls. The party is the main constituent of the ruling People's Alliance. The party sources said that the decision would be endorsed by the Working Committee of Sri Lanka Freedom Party and later by the ruling Alliance.

The opposition United National Party Working Group is meeting in Colombo on Friday [9 September]. It is expected to choose the leader of the opposition, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, to contest the presidential elections.

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